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www.kentnews.co.uk February 12, 2012

MID & WEST KENT EDITION

Issue no 490

KCC to kick start homes market with help for first time buyers

By **Marijke Cox**

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

KENT County Council is just months away from launching a multi-million pound mortgage scheme which could help hundreds of first-time buyers get a foot on the property ladder.

In what will be the biggest scheme of its kind in the country, KCC and district councils will team up and work with lenders to offer a unique mortgage service, which will breathe life into the housing market and give the local economy a boost.

The scheme, hoped to be launched in April, could be worth up to £24 million if every district authority gets involved, helping at least 700 first-time buyers. Talks are already underway with Lloyds TSB to get the programme off the ground.

Cllr Kevin Lynes, KCC cabinet mem-

ber for regeneration and economic development, explained that a district council would put forward £1m – the maximum allowed in such a scheme – and KCC would match-fund that figure.

This money would then be used to help first-time buyers – who are currently faced with huge deposits and high interest rates – secure a mortgage.

"In the last few years we've seen more first-time buyers in their 40s as banks stopped lending or asked for big deposits which younger people just couldn't afford," said Cllr Lynes.

"What we can do is de-risk lending. Buyers will go through the same application as they would normally with a lender. But as a first-time buyer in an area where a district council is involved they will only have to find a five per cent deposit.

"KCC and the district council act as a surety for 20 per cent of the mortgage.

Continued on page 2



SINGER NEEDS YOU FOR VIDEO SHOOT

ON SONG: Opera singer to shoot video for her charity Red Card Cancer appeal **SEE INSIDE**

TOURISM

Last chance to get free tickets

THERE are just hours left to apply for free tickets for this year's My Kent Big Weekend.

More than 100 of the county's top visitor attractions have put up over 15,000 free tickets and there is something to suit every taste.

It's not too late to apply, but time is running out. **PAGE 10**

ROYALTY

Start planning Jubilee parties

THE Queen's representative in Kent, the Lord Lieutenant Viscount De L'Isle has urged everyone to plan events to mark the monarch's Diamond Jubilee. Speaking in the week the Queen marked 60 years on the throne, he said she would not want people to spend too much money. **PAGE 12**

SPORT

GB skipper on Paralympics

IN THE latest feature in our series on Kent athletes looking towards 2012, wheelchair rugby captain Steve Brown gives his thoughts on the Paralympics.

The 30-year-old reveals his motivation for competing and the state of the squad's preparations. **PAGE 70**

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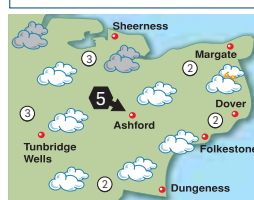
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Dover	02.33	4.9	14.59	4.7
St Mary's	07.29	5.8	19.51	5.5

Day	Max	Min
Monday	6C	2C
Tuesday	7C	1C
Wednesday	6C	0C
Thursday	7C	2C
Friday	8C	2C
Saturday	8C	3C

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TELEVISION

Street dancing dinner ladies served up fresh moves for TV challenge

By Marijke Cox

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THE king of UK street dance Ashley Banjo faced his toughest ever challenge when tasked with turning five dinner ladies into a group of dancers.

But the leader of celebrated dance group Diversity, winners of ITV's Britain's Got Talent in 2009, stepped up to the task and with blood, sweat and tears from the determined women, he created a funky street crew with moves to match.

The challenge was for Sky1's new series Ashley Banjo's Secret Street Crew, which sees Banjo find the unlikely candidates and transform them into dancers.

And first on his hitlist was Paula Waddington, 40, Christine Letchford, 43, Liane Mann, 32, Samantha Eve, 39, and Alysha Bath, 26 – all dinner ladies at Shears Green County Junior School in Northfleet, who were contacted by the production company to take part.

"When Diversity showed us the routine we knew we would be completely out of our comfort zone – at first it was really tough," said Mrs Waddington.

"We had to keep it a secret from everybody and so we told our families it was a new fitness



regime we were working on. We knew we would have to perform in front of the schoolchildren at the end of it; children are the harshest critics in the world so it was quite daunting."

The group were mentored by two of the Diversity crew, as well as Banjo.

In just a number of weeks, the women had to step up to the challenge and learn a routine before springing a surprise performance on unsuspecting friends, family and colleagues – and in this case, the schoolchildren.

Mrs Waddington said: "It was a bit of a struggle and we got disheartened when we couldn't do the moves, but we got there in the end. We



TOP CREW:

Dancer Ashley Banjo helped the Shears Green County Junior School dinner ladies cook up some hot street dancing moves

couldn't have done anymore than we did.

"We really built up stamina. A few of us are a bit overweight and so we had a diet and nutrition regime. We'd also run up and down the A2."

Asked what the children thought of the performance, Mrs Waddington said: "They all think we can actually street dance now."

"We were really pleased with how it went. I think Ashley was too – we were the first to be filmed in the series so he probably didn't know what to expect."

Kent County Council's Film Office worked with the production company on filming locations including Gravesend, the Battle of Britain pub and Shears Green County Junior School.

A spokeswoman said: "Securing any filming is extremely competitive and we are always delighted when production companies choose Kent for both the economic benefit to the county and the opportunity to showcase what we have to offer."

■ **Watch the dinner ladies in action on Sky1's Ashley Banjo's Secret Street Crew on Sunday, February 12, at 7.30pm.**

KCC says plan will help housing market, then employment

Continued from front page

The buyer then gets a 95 per cent mortgage, but with repayment rates of 75 per cent.

"The money KCC and the district council put forward is held by the lender for five years. It will grow in interest as the rates will be higher.

"In the unlikely event of any default, the money would come from there so there is no risk to taxpayers' money."

Cllr Lynes said under the scheme with Lloyds TSB – which is yet to be officially confirmed – first-time buyers would not be able to purchase brand new houses.

But he said KCC was in ongoing talks with other lenders, which could have different policies.

Under the council mortgage scheme, local authorities can only set aside £1m, but KCC 'tweaked' the rules by setting up a partnership with districts and boroughs so there would be £2m for areas involved.

"KCC has set aside £12m in match-funding," said Cllr Lynes.

"Three or four councils have said they want to be involved and others are interested, but need to work out where to find the money from.

"We're not expecting all the 12

councils to be involved at once. If KCC gets a 'yes' from every district council it would mean up to £24m available."

KCC said the minimum number of first-time buyers it could help was 700. Cllr Lynes said this could start the ball rolling.

"Every first-time buyer will unlock five more house transactions down the line and so we're looking at 3,500 and this then goes on to unlock even more," he said.

"This will help the housing market, which then helps with employment."

Lloyds TSB would not be drawn into commenting on the Kent-wide scheme

until it was confirmed, but a spokeswoman said the local authority initiative was for loans between £25,000 and £350,000, although the maximum loan size would be dependent on the particular council.

"The first-time buyer will own the property in its entirety – unlike shared ownership schemes," said the spokeswoman. "The fixed-rate mortgage products that will be available for first-time buyers during this scheme will be at a lower rate of interest than would normally be available for this level of deposit, helping them with the cost of their monthly payments."

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FILM

Thousands turn out for Les Misérables audition hoping to be film stars

By Chris Murphy

yourmedway@kosmedia.co.uk

THE lure of appearing on the big screen in a star-studded blockbuster proved a huge draw last weekend as more than 2,000 people turned up at Chatham dockyard hoping to be in with a shout of landing a role.

A casting crew working on a movie adaptation of musical hit *Les Misérables* staged a day of auditions looking for extras.

But so many turned up hundreds had to be turned away. It left movie chiefs amazed at what they described "their biggest ever turn-out".

Parts of the film, which stars the likes of Amanda Seyfried, Russell Crowe, Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway, will be shot at the Historic Dockyard Chatham.

And last weekend the crew were on the hunt for people to portray French peasants workers.

Wayne Berko, from Uni-versal EXTRAS, which was promoting the auditions, said: "This was by far the largest number of people we have ever seen to turn up for an audition."

"We just couldn't believe the sheer volume of people and we do apologise to all those that didn't get in to see us."

"This agency has done some major castings for some huge films, but we have never seen so many people like this."

"The people of Medway were so enthusiastic. At one point, we could hear them singing *Les Mis* songs in the queue."

"It was such a great atmosphere, but sadly we just could not get everyone in."

The company needs thousands of extras for the film with other scenes being made in Winchester, Portsmouth and London where other auditions will be held.

The producers were looking for men and



women aged between 16 and 90 to be paid £110 per day while filming later this year.

They were after villagers, passers-by, nuns, students, military officers, and convicts from the 19th century.

Mr Berko said: "I am not sure just how many turned out, but it was far too many for us to get through. We need thousands for the whole film."

"I feel sorry for those that didn't make it, but there was no trouble – everyone seemed very well behaved, and I am just sad we had to let some down, but they did appear to be in good spirits."

"There were many at Chatham who didn't come from the area, but they may be better to go to the others auditions."

Medway police said: "Yes, we did attend an awful lot of people turned up to apply – well in to the thousands. Around six PCSOs attended to assist with crowd control and ensure that there were no issues."

■ More news at www.yourmedway.co.uk.



STAR-STUDED: Russel Crowe and Amanda Seyfried will appear in the new *Les Misérables*

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ VIPs visit County Show

SECRETARY of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Caroline Spelman is to be the special guest at this year's Kent County Show at the Kent Showground at Detling, near Maidstone.

The show runs from July 13-15 and Ms Spelman will attend on the opening day. Adam Henson of BBC's *Countryfile* programme will attend on July 14 to present prizes for the Grown In Kent initiative.

➔ Warning on home fires

PEOPLE lighting fires and wood burners to keep the cold out of their homes have been warned to take extra care after a blaze at Bough Beech on Wednesday.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service were in action after a blaze started when a pile of timber stored next to a wood burner caught light.

It is believed that radiated heat from the wood burning stove caused the wood to set light. The whole house was damaged by smoke.

➔ Police metal theft raids

THOUSANDS of pounds worth of lead and cable were found at 10 premises searched by Kent Police on Wednesday. The search and arrests of seven men in Thanet and Herne Bay, were part of a countywide Kent Police operation aimed at disrupting the illegal trade in stolen metal. Scrap yards were also visited in Ramsgate, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Tenterden, Aylesford, Erith and Canterbury.

CRIME

Hooligan banned from attending football matches for three years

AN unemployed 35-year-old man who assaulted two stewards at a Gillingham match FC has become the first person in Kent to receive a Football Banning Order since a new specialist unit was established within Kent Police to tackle football related crime.

Gary Rimmer (pictured) of Pheasant Road, Chatham, has been banned from attending any football match anywhere in the UK or overseas, for the next three years.

The ban extends to all matches from the Blue Square Premier League – the top level of non-league competition – upwards.

He also received an 18 month community order and an 18 month supervision order after being found guilty at Medway Magistrates' Court of assaulting two stewards at a Gills game at Priestfield in October.

During the game against Barnet, Rimmer was arrested and subsequently charged with two counts of assault and one count of being drunk while entering a sports ground. He was found



guilty last month and the prosecutor applied for him to be the subject of a Football Banning Order.

The police's football unit, which comprises of specially trained officers, was formed last July after a change in the law that meant 'regulated games' included non-league football matches.

So the team covers all the major football fixtures in the county – among them games featuring the Gills, Ebbsfleet, Dartford, Dover and Tonbridge Angels.

Attached to the unit are dedicated 'football spotters' who monitor tensions and behaviour in football stadiums and look out for those who have previously been banned from grounds.

If an offence is seen the spotters can direct officers to arrest the person responsible.

Supt Ian Hall said: "Football fans should be able to attend a game to support their team, and stewards should be able to do their job, without being subjected to offensive and criminal behaviour."

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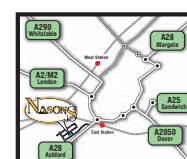
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SNOW

Highs and lows as our world is whitewashed

PLUNGING temperatures brought winter to the county this week after heavy snow on Saturday night was followed by ice during the week.

Several inches of the white stuff fell on Saturday night and in the early hours of Sunday morning – bringing delight to the young and young at heart.

Fortunately, it also gave council chiefs the chance to ensure main roads were cleared in time for Monday morning's return to work.

Some schools across the county closed for the day.

But there was also danger, and lifeboat crews faced bliz-



ALL WHITE: Bluebell the dog's first snowfall in Whitstable



Picture: GENARRO SERRA

zard conditions and zero visibility in a dramatic five-hour rescue in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The Sheerness emergency crew took to the water after receiving calls a yacht with two people on board had broken down.

The 32-foot craft Katrina had suffered machinery failure more than 20 miles off the coast of Sheppey.

Lifeboat crew members, who set off at 12.25am, found themselves battling strong winds, a heavy swell and blizzard conditions as they fought to find the stricken craft with the weather at times causing zero visibility



Picture: COLIN MILES

The yacht was found 22 miles north east of Warden Point.

Both people onboard were found unhurt and the yacht was towed back to the lifeboat station at Queenborough. All returned safely at 5.05am.

Coxswain Robin Castle said: "The weather conditions were horrendous, with driving horizontal snow. I'm full of praise



for our volunteer crew."

And in Tunbridge Wells an 11-year-old girl had a lucky escape after she became trapped on a lake on Saturday.

She had walked across the frozen lake in Grosvenor Park to a duck island and got stuck there when the ice started to crack.

Fire crews got to the island using water safety equipment and carried the girl back to safety.

OUT AND ABOUT: Sledging in Tunbridge Wells; Sedi Muca takes a break from his 10ft-plus snowman in Ramsgate; a gritter gets to work

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Woman, 35, dies on M2

A 35-year-old Maidstone woman died after she got out of her car on the M2 and was hit by another vehicle. The accident happened near the slip road of junction 2 on the coastbound carriageway on Wednesday at 7.30pm. The woman's Peugeot 207 hit the central reservation of the motorway and she got out of the car and stood between the carriageway and the central reservation. It is reported that shortly after she was hit by a silver Ford Mondeo.

➔ 'Drugs trade' arrests

POLICE have carried out a series of warrants across Thanet, many of them linked to the production of cannabis and supply of cocaine and amphetamine.

Four men charged with drug offences appeared before magistrates in Margate.

The arrests came after seven warrants were carried out across Thanet this week and one in Ashford last month. Three other men will appear before magistrates on Thursday, March 8.

➔ Animal drivers needed

THE RSPCA is looking for volunteer drivers to help move pets and wildlife from its animal centre at Leybourne. The charity is looking for animal lovers who are happy to spend some free time driving cats, dogs, rabbits and even wildlife from the rehoming centre near West Malling to other centres, animal hospitals, wildlife centres and anywhere they need to go. Contact Debbie at volcoordinatordeb@gmail.com.

BUSINESS

Media group strengthens top team as it plans for the future

THE managing director of this newspaper is expanding his role as the company looks to create new products for readers and advertisers.

Paul Stannard, the founder of KOS Media in 2002, is starting in the new role of Group Business Operations Director for our parent company Archant, from Monday.

In his new role he will be based at Archant KOS Media's offices in Ashford, where he will continue to be involved in future business developments and acquisitions.

As part of these changes, Archant KOS Media will be getting the benefit of added senior management experience with the appointment of Mike Deedigan as publisher in Kent.

Mr Deedigan said: "I am looking forward to working in Kent with such an experienced and talented team.

"There are so many opportunities to be explored in the Garden of England, and I hope to build on the relationships and award-winning reputation that have been built up over the last decade."

Mr Deedigan has a wealth of experience running newspapers, magazines, and websites, and he will work with the existing senior management team to develop these services for readers and advertisers.

Archant is the UK's largest independently owned regional media business. It is a commu-



THE FUTURE: Mike Deedigan and Paul Stannard

nity media company active in the fields of regional newspaper and magazine publishing, contract printing and internet communications. All its titles serve clearly defined communities, based around locations or interest groups.

Mr Stannard said: "I am really excited at being involved in such a diverse portfolio across the UK. I expect to bring new media ideas and products to my home county as part of my new role. I am delighted Mike is coming to Kent, and I am sure he and I will be working on one or two new projects over the coming months.

"He will bring some fresh ideas, and with an enlarged team we will be well placed to grow our business in the county."

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MUSIC

Opera singer needs extra help filming her video to show cancer the red card

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

EXTRAS with a love of opera are needed for a YouTube video being shot in Kent.

Opera will arrive in Borough Green, Tonbridge and Malling, when soprano Marika Rauscher appears at the Cafe Troika to shoot a video for her charity Red Card Cancer appeal.

Marika, known for her range of vocal talents, has sung in films including Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, King Kong, Spider Man 3, The Island, and The Da Vinci Code. She has also recorded material at the world renowned Abbey Road Studios.

Now she is making a video in aid of the Tribute 2 a Legend Trust, which in turn hopes the night will raise funds for two important projects.

One is Legends Football Academies, which empowers teenage cancer survivors using football to enable them to improve their quality of life. It also

helps keep the memory and legacy of football legend Sir Alf Ramsey alive.

A survivor of childhood cancer may endure health worries with their heart, lungs, and kidneys. The academy aims to encourage survivors to get together and play football, bringing communities together.

Also benefiting is Working Class Heroes, a rap opera set against the background of last summer's riots featuring young people who decided it was time to voice their own views and opinions showing that not all young people are indeed anti-social.

The talents displayed will be from the world of fashion, with young designers showing their skills with colour, design and material, and street dance performers.

There will also be young musicians showcase their music and lyrics, each highlighting their views against anti-social behaviour.

Marika said: "For me as an entertainer to be given the chance to help the

charity with my Red Card Cancer appeal music video is a fantastic feeling.

From 11,000 entrants, I was lucky to be one of the 500 winners who have been selected by the Vodafone Foundation to work with Tribute 2 a Legend."

And Paul Bowman, Cafe Troika general manager, added: "It's absolutely fantastic that Marika will be performing live here.

"When I was approached by the Tribute 2 a Legend Trust asking for help with the filming of the Red Card Cancer appeal music video I had no hesitation in saying yes – this will be a great opportunity to generate awareness of all the hard work the charity put in, and help raise much needed funds for these two projects."

To be in with a chance of appearing in the video on February 25, you must be over 18 years old and smartly dressed. Call Joe Leslie at the charity on 07891 401 466 for an invite to Cafe Troika at 7pm.



TRIBUTE: Marika Rauscher needs extras to appear in her charity music video



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POLICE

Government's one-off grant allows police to freeze council tax bills

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

KENT Police Authority has announced a freeze on police council tax in what is expected to be the toughest financial year yet for the force.

Members agreed unanimously to keep the precept, its part of the council tax, as it was and to instead accept a one-off grant from the Government of £2 million to cover the gap in funding for 2012-13.

KPA chair Ann Barnes admitted the forthcoming financial year would be the hardest yet, with savings needed of £20m.

It forms the biggest portion of the £50m savings required by Kent Police over four years. Around £7m was saved in 2011-12; £20m is needed for the upcoming 2012-13; £12m for 2013-14; and £13m for 2014-15.

"The £50m is what we're not going to be getting in (government) grants," said Mrs Barnes.

"It's hard and very challenging, but we've been preparing for this for quite some time and confident we can do this without cutting services.

"A one-year grace in council tax will help hard-pressed families and this decision means that those who are struggling are not burdened with any more financial worry."

A budget of £274m was set at the police authority meeting – around £1.5m is spent annually to run KPA – with the average band D household paying £2.67 a week for policing services.

Mrs Barnes said: "Every department has to

make efficiency savings and we have to find better ways of doing things for less money.

"At the end of the day the thing that costs organisations the most is people. By March, 2015, we will have 500 fewer police officers and 1,000 fewer staff. We're not getting away from that.

"What we have to do is make sure that the people we have are used to the best capacity."

Mrs Barnes said she was confident the force would continue to deliver savings without affecting services.

"People always say these are challenging times, but there are always wonderful opportunities in times of challenge," she said.

Last year the county was split into three policing divisions – West, North, and East – and a new appointment system was introduced to enable victims of crime to see an officer at a time and place of their choosing.

Mrs Barnes said: "We've got hundreds of extra officers in our neighbourhoods; the

new 101 number is in place where everyone now knows who to call.

"The force in Kent has been remodelled – I'm confident that because we started planning early we can meet the financial challenges."

She added: "The authority will continue to monitor the force to ensure it continues to deliver the best possible policing service for the taxpayers of the county."

This will be the last budget set by KPA, as elections are planned for November to choose the county's first Police and Crime Commissioner.



CONFIDENT: KPA chair Ann Barnes

ACCIDENT

Woman in 70s dies after her car hits tree

POLICE have appealed for witnesses after a woman injured in a crash in Canterbury died in hospital on Tuesday. The woman, in her 70s, was a passenger in a Nissan Note involved in a collision in Hales Drive, Canterbury, on Wednesday, January 25, just after 2pm. The car was turning from Manwood Avenue into Hales Drive when it was involved in a minor collision with a bike and then hit a tree. Two men in the car and the female cyclist were treated for minor injuries.

PEOPLE

Cancer claims award winning restaurateur

RENOWNED businessman Jonny Dunhill, who owned acclaimed Ramsgate restaurant Eddie Gilbert's, has died. It is believed he had been suffering from cancer. Mr Dunhill, who had been a shellfish dealer to top restaurants in London, moved to Thanet to set up the Eddie Gilbert's fish restaurant. He leaved three children and was in his 40s. The restaurant was Taste of Kent Best Fish Retailer in 2007 and 2009, and Best Newcomer of the Kent Restaurant Awards in 2009.



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News

TOURISM

It's not too late to apply for your free tickets to explore county's gems

THERE are just a few days left to apply for free My Kent Big Weekend tickets to 123 of the county's top visitor attractions and experiences.

The website, www.mykentbigweekend.co.uk, will close for applications on midnight, Monday, February 13.

From historic castles, steam trains and wildlife parks to football matches and art courses, there are more than 15,000 free tickets, two per Kent household, available to suit all tastes.

Attractions taking part include Deal Castle, Dartford FC, Spa Valley Railway, Eagle Heights and Sandhurst Vineyards.

The 2012 My Kent Big Weekend, which is being held on March 17-18, marks the climax of the first English Tourism Week in the county.

And, for the first time, Kent is celebrating its cross-Channel connections. A major draw for visitors to the county, My Kent Big Weekend includes coach trips from France to attractions in Kent, and also from the county to Nord Pas De Calais for their similar celebrations the following weekend, thanks to Eurotunnel and Eurotunnel.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive of Visit Kent which organises the annual celebration of the county's tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses, said: "This is our sixth major event for people showcasing our industry and I am delighted the variety of attractions opening



EXPLORE: Canterbury Cathedral is one of the attractions included in My Kent Big Weekend

their doors for free has increased every year.

"It is this variety – from our iconic heritage sites and gardens to our watersports, theatres, creative experiences and community initiatives – that makes our county such a popular destination for 56 million visitors every year.

"Because My Kent Big Weekend free tickets are allocated on a ballot system after the website closes, there is absolutely no advantage in being either the first or the last to apply for any destination or event.

"This means everyone has plenty of time to browse through all the attractions at their leisure and really focus on where they would like to explore or experience and talk it through with their friends and family."

People without internet access can apply for free My Kent Big Weekend tickets at visitor information centres across the county.



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News

GAMING

Help with your times tables – there's a Kn-App for that!

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE day he was designing websites for other people, the next Ian Knapp is topping the iPhone app charts in Australia and embarking on a new career.

Mr Knapp, from Tunbridge Wells, spent months developing a maths application to be used on a variety of mobile devices and was delighted when it topped the education charts Down Under, and made the top 10 in this country.

He said: "I was inspired to do this when my daughter Matilda, who was nine at the time, started doing her times tables at school.

"She looked like she could do with something fun to help, so I set to work.

"I learned a new computer language called Objective C and set about creating the world of Squeebles."

It is a game where users answer multiplication questions and get rewards for good performance, like medals and saving trapped Squeebles.

He said: "Matilda loves it, and now my son Finn who is seven, has started playing it too. It helps them learn without them realising it because it makes it all fun.

"I had looked around the app stores and there is nothing like this out there. I am setting about making other apps for other subjects and am determined to make a career of it.

"I have some other ideas I can't wait to get



ALL ADDS UP: Ian with his wife and two children

started on. It is surprising just how little there is available for children of this age."

His wife of 11 years, Florence, backed his plan to leave work as a director of a web design company.

Ian, 36, said: "The app sells for 69p, so is at the cheapest price level, and sales have gone over 10,000. Apple takes between 30 and 50 per cent of the income, but I would recommend anyone with a great idea to have a go."

Competition for recognition is tough – there are currently half a million apps available dealing with anything from games, education, news, business, travel and social networking.

To see the Squeebles in action visit youtube/9pWVMJAC_tQ.

■ You can download the free Kent News iPad and iPhone app at the Apple App store.

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News

for more pictures and news go to www.kentnews.co.uk

HERE TO STAY: The Queen will reign over Britain well into the future, says the Lord Lieutenant of Kent Viscount De L'Isle

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



DIAMOND JUBILEE

Throw a party for the Queen, but she doesn't want you to break the bank

By Chris Murphy

editorial@archant.co.uk

IT'S the Lord Lieutenant of Kent's job to ensure the Queen is kept safe at all times when she is in the county, and Viscount De L'Isle believes she will be on the throne for "many years" to come.

As the Queen marked the 60th anniversary of

her accession to the throne on Monday, the Viscount, born Philip Sidney, said she is worth every penny of the £1 each we annually spend on the monarchy.

The Queen's representative in Kent said: "The Queen has completed 60 years as our monarch, the only other to reign as long was Queen Victoria.

"During her reign the Queen has moved with

the times and modernised the way she rules over us as our head of state.

"The Queen still takes an active part in affairs of state in this country and nations of the commonwealth.

"She has received 11 new Prime Ministers, all of whom have greatly appreciated her wise advice. The current Prime Minister was born 14 years after the Queen's accession. Constitutional monarchy suits this country and still remains relevant in the 21st century.

"During the Jubilee celebrations this summer the Queen has expressed a wish that no great expense is made on her behalf, rather that communities should get together on Sunday, June 3, for a Big Lunch, be that a street party, or an event on the village green.

"The nation is exceptionally lucky to have a monarchy that costs them less, annually, than £1 per head of population, and gives great pleasure to thousands of people, as we all saw demonstrated during the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Margate last November.

"During her visit the Queen met veterans, talked to shopkeepers in the old town, who are seeing a revival in their fortunes, and toured the new Turner Contemporary gallery, before visiting the lifeboat station, taking great interest in all the people she met and the things she saw.

"Apart from the Big Lunch I am keen we should all embrace the Diamond Jubilee Beacons. We have a proud history of firing warning beacons across Kent, dating from 16th century, when the Spanish Armada sailed up the English Channel. To date for this Jubilee 85 beacons across Kent have been registered with the Queen's Pageant master."

Home for Viscount De L'Isle is Penshurst Place, near Tonbridge. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent in 1996 and Vice Lord Lieutenant in 2002, taking up his appointment as Lord Lieutenant of Kent on September 1, 2011.



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News

ARTS

Communities dance to the same beat for integration

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A GROUNDBREAKING arts project inspired by Turner Contemporary's new exhibition has been launched in a bid to forge links between British youngsters and their Eastern European counterparts.

Around 20 young people from Czech Roma, Polish and British communities in Margate are taking part in Dance to the Music of Art, run by creative arts charity Create.

Funded by Kent County Council, the project is designed to improve integration and understanding between the different cultures in the town, which traditionally do not mix.

Professional artists have been brought in to help the young people create paintings on silk, inspired by the new Turner and the Elements exhibition, which showcases 88 of the celebrated artist's pieces and explores the important role that the depiction of the elements played in his work.



INSPIRING: Painting on silk

The creations will be used as a stimulus for dance workshops from February 13-17 and incorporated in a final dance performance on Friday, February 17, at Turner Contemporary.

Create's co-founder and executive director, Nicky Goulder, said he was looking forward to the final piece.

"Dance to the Music of Art is a crucial project, bringing together young people from Margate's diverse communities," he said. "Through the cross-artform workshops and the fantastic opportunity to visit the exhibition, Create aims to inspire creativity and self-con-

fidence in young people. I am very excited to see the dance piece that they come up with."

Organisers of the project, developed by KCC and the Kent Community Organisation, said it enabled the different cultural groups to contribute their ideas, support one another, develop trust and life skills, and gain self-confidence.

Since being founded in July, 2003, Create has run 3,360 workshops nationally for more than 22,000 vulnerable people.

This week, Turner Contemporary was selected among 10 museums and galleries to compete for the coveted £100,000 Art Fund Prize 2012 of UK museum of the year, the biggest prize for arts and cultural organisations in the country.

The winner will be announced on June 19.

Director of Turner Contemporary Victoria Pomery said: "This great news continues to demonstrate what an impact Turner Contemporary is having."

■ See www.yourthanet.co.uk for more news and sport.

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POTATOES

Baked, boiled, fried or mashed... there's nothing humble about our spuds' history

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE humble spud has come a long way since Sir Walter Raleigh was associated with the first ones to arrive in Britain, and Kent has been at the centre of that history.

That's according to a new book that in part traces the county's link with the kitchen staple, proving it's a long way from having its chips.

Alan Wilson is a Kent-born author who looked closely at the country's links with the spud. He said the Arran Comet variety was once the mainstay of the early potato trade in Thanet and Romney Marsh.

As he publishes his book *The People's Potatoes*, he said: "This was the new potato I grew up with in Sittingbourne and Maidstone – stocks were grown only a few miles away.

"I recall the freshness and vitality of the stock, peaking at the Whitsun festival, and a welcome purchase after the tired main crop supplies in May."

Mr Wilson points to Ed Parker, from J Paine and Sons based in Romney Marsh, as a leading inspiration when it comes to potatoes.

Mr Parker, who has seen many dramatic changes in how potatoes from the farm get to market, said: "In the 1970s we harvested daily during June and July into 55lb bags.

"All the potatoes were hand-lifted and at the peak season 100 lorries a week were departing for the London markets and beyond.

Kent was a really important new pota-

to source for the UK. This market has now all gone, although we still grow potatoes for the supermarkets."

And today, much of the work is automated with vast machinery used to pick and sort.

Mr Wilson's book celebrates the sheer variety of the British potato, and is published as growers realise the

value of 'potato days' which give the public the chance to sample varieties they may otherwise miss out on.

Mr Wilson said it is now time for farmers to plant their crops for this year's growing season.

He said the book aims to become a definitive guide to spuds and even a must-have reference for buying or growing your own.

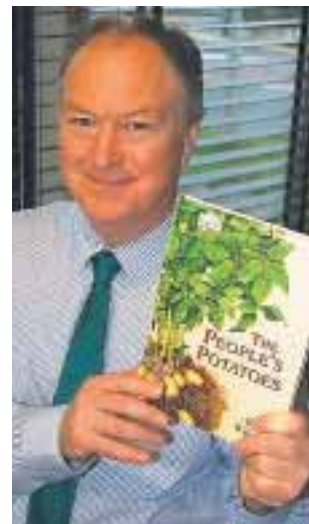
In the book, Mr Wilson details his top 100 varieties which are lavishly illustrated with exclusive colour oil paintings by artist Caroline Bletsis.

He said: "There are a further 300 varieties featured, along with dozens of tips learned from my own experience and more than 30 years' technical expertise, working for Waitrose,

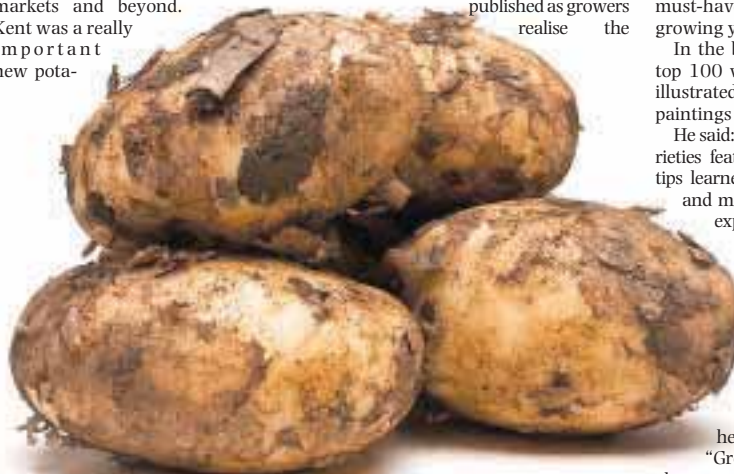
the last 15 have been as its technical manager for agronomy.

"This book is a labour of love and the culmination of three years in the making. I like to grow many of the varieties in my back garden, which should help others to do the same.

"Growing potatoes is easy, it's cheap and it's fun. I hope my new



FOR THE PEOPLE: Alan Wilson with his lovingly-researched potato book



book will inspire readers to have a go at growing different varieties, as well as being a valuable resource for everyone in the potato industry."

He also gives a comprehensive insight into current agricultural issues such as GM crops, soil condition, water use, food waste and intensive farming.

Mr Wilson is a keen advocate for organic farming and has served on many governmental and non-governmental working groups.

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News

RNLI

Calls for help to lifeboat crews on the up last year

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AUF Wiedersehen. Pet star Timothy Spall helped contribute to a sharp rise in the number of time Kent's lifeboats were put to sea to help stranded sailors in peril.

RNLI volunteers in Kent carried out 396 launches in 2011 – 15 per cent more than the year before. In all, they rescued 442 people last year.

Margate crews were called upon 51 times, rescuing 80 people. In Walmer, there was a 100 per cent increase in call-outs at 38, helping 29 people.

Ramsgate also experienced an increase with 94 call-outs compared to 78 before, making it the busiest in the county, and 14th busiest in the UK.

In Gravesend RNLI lifeboats launched 117 times in 2011, making them the sixth busiest station within the charity.

There were some dramatic incidents too, the charity said.

Among them was the rescue of Spall and his wife Shane on



SAVED: Actor Timothy Spall

the Princess Matilda in August. He needed rescuing by Sheerness lifeboat crew when he lost his way and instead of travelling up the River Medway was heading towards the Thames Estuary and Sheerness.

Also notable was a launch to a male swimmer, rescued by Walmer in October. He had drifted down on the tide and was unable to make it back to shore. He had been in the water clinging to a football which he had originally gone in to the water to retrieve.

Also in Walmer, they saved a horse in the sea. A woman spotted the animal in distress off Sandwich Bay. The rider had been thrown while in shallows and the horse took to the water. The inshore lifeboat got

there in 15 minutes and towed Shallimah in from half a mile.

Like 2010, incidents involving sail and power pleasure craft continue to account for nearly 50 per cent of all launches, reflecting the growing rise of leisure craft users, they said.

RNLI East Deputy Divisional Inspector Michael Oakes said: "Kent lifeboat crews continue to carry out a vital service, rescuing many people who get into trouble at sea."

Across all the stations in the UK and Northern Ireland, lifeboats were sent out 8,905 times, the second busiest year after 2009, picking up 7,976 people, an average of 22 a day.

The busiest RNLI lifeboat station in Kent and the 14th busiest in the UK last year was Ramsgate, with 94 launches, rescuing 112 people, followed by Sheerness, the 28th busiest in the UK.

New lifejackets are needed in Kent costing a £26,500. To donate call 07767 008335 or you can email Aimee_Menniss@rnli.org.uk.

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News

CRIME

Rapist, 55, sentenced for abusing boy and girl over 10 'horrific' years

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A 55-YEAR-OLD man has been jailed for series of sex attacks on two children over 10 years.

William Diack, of Wordsworth Road, Maidstone, been given an indeterminate sentence with a minimum of 10 years, 10 months imprisonment, after being convicted of committing sexual offences against the children in Milton Keynes.

He was found guilty of three counts of rape and two counts of sexual assault following a week-long trial.

Diack carried out the offences on two children, a boy and a girl, between 1999 and 2009.

The offences were committed when he was living in Milton Keynes. The boy was aged between 11 and 15-years-old and the girl was aged between five and nine-years-old.

Diack was arrested at his Maidstone home in on December 9, 2010.

His computer was seized and he was found to have more than 200 indecent images of children ranging from levels one to five.

Diack was charged with 10 counts of making indecent images of children.

These charges will lie on file.

Det Con Kim McHugh said: "Diack carried out a series of horrific sexual offences on his two young victims and, as many offenders like him do, he encouraged them to keep the abuse secret."

"Four of the charges Diack has been convicted of were not individual offences. Each represented a course of conduct over several years."

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RAPE: Diack, 55, abused the boy and girl during a 10-year period

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News

HOUSING

Cash to help young single people find a safe place to live

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CHARITY Porchlight has won £160,000 to further its fight against homelessness.

It said the money was desperately needed to help it finance a new service helping people find a place to live.

It will operate in partnership with councils in Thanet, Dartford, Gravesham, Shepway and Canterbury.

Primarily the service is aimed at finding private accommodation for under 35s who are able to live independently.

Porchlight said volunteer mentors, under the guidance of professionals, will not only ease the transition to the private sector but also help individuals for up to year to ensure they can sustain their new tenancies.

Pre-tenancy training will also be offered by the charity to make sure people have the skills and knowledge they need.

Crisis, a national charity for single homeless people, provided the funds to Porchlight.

Chris Coffey, strategic manager at Porchlight will be overseeing the service. He said: "We expect to see a sharp increase in the amount of people looking for shared accommodation."

"This service is not a substitute for statutory support but a response to welfare reform and the changes to Local Housing Allowance for under 35s."

"Porchlight has been working closely with private landlords for some time and with the help of dedicated volunteers we aim to support people in sustaining tenancies and helping them to feel part of their community."

Crisis chief executive Leslie Morphy added: "Most single homeless people have little chance of acquiring council accommodation, and finding a flat in the private rented sector can be a complex and expen-



HELP: Support project to start

sive option. They need advice and help, but in many areas of the country, these specialist services are simply not there.

"Crisis asked local voluntary organisations to bid for these new funds so that we can kick-start the establishment of new private rented sector access schemes. These schemes will help people overcome financial barriers, match them to good landlords and help more individuals avoid the perils of homelessness."

Meanwhile, Tunbridge Wells and District Citizens Advice Bureau was awarded £40,000 by Crisis to deliver a private rented sector access service.

For more information and to possibly become a volunteer mentor visit www.porchlight.org.uk/volunteer or email volunteer@porchlight.org.uk, or call 01227 760078.

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News

SAGA

Communication not sex key to a long relationship

James Reid

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

COMMUNICATION is the secret to maintaining a long-lasting relationship according to a major survey by Saga.

The Sandgate-based company which provides services for older people, interviewed more than 10,000 people aged over 50.

One in two people (49 per cent) said talking to each other was the number one way of ensuring relationships are maintained, followed by laughter (14 per cent), never going to bed on an argument, and shared interests (both six per cent).

Despite Valentine's Day being just around the corner, just two per cent claimed that romance was the key to a long-lasting relationship and it is men who find it marginally more important than women, at three per cent to one per cent respectively.

Revealing the extent of our 'sharing' nature, a mere one per cent said that separate finances would enhance the length of a relationship.

Last year a Saga survey found 61 per cent of over 50s said their sex life was more fulfilling today than in their 20s and 30s.

The latest results show that almost half (42 per cent) of sexually active respondents had sex at least once a week, with a further quarter saying fortnightly, a good sex life was not considered to be the main method of maintaining a long relationship – with only four per cent claiming it to be a priority.

This was considered more significant for men at six per cent, compared to only two per cent of women.

Editor at large of Saga Magazine Emma Soames, said: "If you're looking for a long

lasting bond, talking to each other is the key.

"This does not mean that romance is dead, on the contrary, making a romantic gesture is one form of communication – the very element that appears to be the secret to ensuring a partnership will stand the true test of time."

■ **Read more news and sport at** www.yourshepway.co.uk



LAUGH IT UP: Saga relationship survey

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Photography by Andy Kerry

Half-Term fun at Turner Contemporary

Make the school break fun and interesting for all the family, by visiting our current exhibitions; *Turner and the Elements* and *Hamish Fulton: Walk*. Discover more about the works on show with our incredible new family explorer resource packs, full of innovative activities, then make your own artwork at our family workshops.

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Get the kids out of the house this half term week and visit one of our Make 'n' Paint activity days, included in the admission cost to the Hornby visitor centre.

For more information visit www.hornby.com/visitorcentre. Book early to avoid disappointment. Make 'n' Paint suitable for children aged 8+. Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult.

Join the explorers at the POWELL-COTTON MUSEUM this Half-Term on a very special safari

You will learn how to escape a lion, track a zebra and discover what to do if you meet a hippopotamus while boating! As you travel through the museum you will discover new landscapes and meet the unknown animals *Major Percy* brought back to Britain. Taking rubbings from tracks, finding your favourite animal and making your own musical instrument are just some of the things you will be trying on your journey. Meet up in February for this safari adventure.

Safari takes place 12-18 February, 2-3.30pm. Adults £7, Children £5, Families £20 (includes full admission to the Museum, House and Gardens). **Museum open 10am-5pm**
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adventuresincomics.org

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By Rail: Travel into Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate from all main stations. Why not take the *Southeastern* high speed service? Call 0845 000 2222 or visit www.southeasternrailway.co.uk
For National Rail enquires call 08457 48 49 50. **By Bus:** *National Express* - visit www.nationalexpress.com or call 08717 818 178. *Stagecoach* - visit www.stagecoachbus.com or call 08456 00 22 99 for information on specific bus times or journeys. *Eastonways* - visit www.eastonways.co.uk or call 01843 588 944. **Margate, Broadstairs & Ramsgate Visitor Information.** The Droit House, Stone Pier, Margate CT9 1JD, 01843 577 577 visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk For an up to the minute events listing and to book your stay, see www.visitthanet.co.uk

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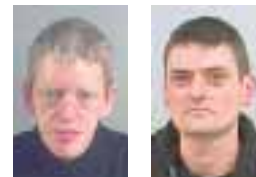


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News

CRIME

Jail for crooks who stole BT cable for scrap



TWO thieves who stole almost 250 metres of BT cable have been each sentenced to three years in prison.

Bernard Anthony Prebble, 38, of no fixed abode, pleaded guilty to charges of theft, and Colin Wray, 38, of Coldharbour Lane, Aylesford, was unanimously found guilty of theft by a jury after appearing at Maidstone Crown Court.

The court heard how on the morning of November 2 last year, police received a call from a dog walker who had discovered the cable in a field by Bull Lane, Eccles, near Aylesford.

The cable, which would have been worth £4,180 in scrap value, had been dragged into the field after being pulled up from two BT manhole covers and had been cut into sections ready for transportation.

Officers spotted two men trying to run away from the field.

Search teams found Prebble nearby with a pair of cable cutters, while a police helicopter infrared camera revealed Wray in the undergrowth.

Due to the recent spate of metal theft in Kent, the judge decided he would impose a sentence of three years as a deterrent to others.

Det Con Alan Poulton from Kent Police said: "I hope this sends a message that metal theft will not be tolerated. We are putting significant resources around targeting metal theft and have organised many dedicated operations to target this."

"Metal theft may seem a crime without victims but it can have devastating consequences. Stealing cabling can result in power cuts, which could be catastrophic for hospitals and other emergency services, or leave homes and businesses without broadband, or

LOCKED UP: Bernard Prebble and Colin Wray had cut the cable up for transportation

leave rail passengers to face significant delays.

"We are asking people to be vigilant. If they see anything suspicious at scrap metal dealers, around derelict sites, building sites and business/industrial parks we urge people to report it immediately."

Luke Beeson, BT's general manager for cable theft said: "It's great to see members of the public helping to catch thieves by being vigilant and reporting suspicious activity. They can play a vital role in helping combat this problem."

■ **More news and sport at** www.yourtonbridge.co.uk.

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KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, stays at home too much and looking for fun male with OHAC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373

GEM 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, extremely easygoing, WLTm genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369

DIANE single fit female, no children, OHAC, lots of free time, looking for a nice man to get to know and hopefully fall in love with. Is that you? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385351

RUTH slim funny 18yr old brunette who loves cuddles seeks genuine guy for friendship leading to more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385349

SUSIE 45, 5ft 8ins, student, outgoing, easygoing, likes the outdoors, museums, theatre, socialising, seeks likeminded male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389716

IVY May tall, slim, voluptuous, seeking older, generous, kind, caring male, 75-80 for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385505

SANDRA 63, varied interests, cinema, walks, animals, meals out, N/S, social drinker, cuddly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385315

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189

CARING affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871

CAROL alone on a Saturday night with a bag of chips, what am I doing? Sick of being single and looking for a male who can handle a good woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383119

SHARON 57 7ins, slim blonde, attractive, funny, good job, nice home, sports car, well educated/travelled, newly single and looking for love. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383113

ERIN attractive petite divorcee with own home, looking for nights in/out, friendship and maybe more with mature male. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383111

ALEX attractive professional, separated, no ties, OHAC, seeks similar romantic male for love, companionship and more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383049

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047

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FAEMALE 58, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, cuddly, caring, likes animals, drink, good food, seeks likeminded male to share life with. Is that you? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383669

BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male for fun. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611

CLAIRE 38 blue eyes, blonde, looking for professional gent up to 50yrs LTR. Call me to meet up for a casual drink and chat. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380881

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463

THIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for relationship and good friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079

MARIA 47, curly blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, size 14, GSOH, likes reading, walks, WLTm kind, friendly, fun loving gent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380509

MARY 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, fun loving, likes nights in/out, seeks male with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385239

KEIRA 34yr old very attractive female, fed up of staying in alone, looking for likeminded male for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384055

NIAMH slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real woman. Or at least thinks he can. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051

KIM 37, slim blue eyed brunette, divorced with no ties, looking for a genuine convenient friendship/more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384049

SARA slim tall blonde bombshell, loves dancing, walking in the rain, WLTm genuine male loves life as much as I do. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384047

IN for a Penny in for a Pound. Gorgeous curvy figured attractive brunette, bubbly, outgoing and fun, looking for confident romantic companion. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383907

KERRY 32yr old single mum of one, ready to move on with a new relationship, WLTm genuine male for dates, text fun and more. Pls Call. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383901

JO 28yr old Auburn haired beauty looking for a bit of fun back in her life, seeks male to make me smile again. Age/looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383899

46YR old single mum, caring, loving, GSOH, seeks male for lasting relationship. Must like children. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385101

CHRISTIAN 60yr old dog owner, likes countryside, culture, seeks likeminded kind man for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384989

LOVELY lonely lady, fit and active, many interests seeks N/S fun loving guy with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384951

BERYL retired, looking for similar male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384635

TRACY 39, fun blue eyed blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTm professional male for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045

JO 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for fun and more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, dvds, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337

LOOKING for a nice soul mate, dinners, drinks, walks, someone who enjoys life. I am optimistic, happy, fun, cuddly, slim, red hair, enjoy good food, working out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379865

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589

AUDREY recently widowed, seeks lonely gent for friendship and conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381213

ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to loose? Call me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379201

LISA blonde 31yrs, extremely fit and outgoing, seeking male for casual friendship with benefits. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380879

TRISH tall slim brunette, honest, reliable, affectionate, OHAC, no ties, outgoing, loves Indian food, seeking male 39-50yrs for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380877

CAROL attractive lady of leisure, solvent, OHAC, WLTm sincere gent willing to entertain and share all of life's indulgences with me. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380857

EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with male who can tame a confident beautiful lady. Any looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381363

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159

CHERYL young 54, attractive, petite, brunette, slim, likes most things, easygoing, looking for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380141

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574

KATH 41 slim size 10, attractive and hardworking, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks cuddly romantic guy for life and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381339

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503

KATIE pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382205

CLAIRE petite dark haired attractive female with lots of interests, seeking male for mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382203

JULIE attractive blonde with strong family values seeking Mr Right. If you have a GSOH and are loving, pls reply. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384041

SHARON 50, widowed, looking for nice gent to take out to theatre, cinema, country walks and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384497

CARING genuine single mum, GSOH, 41, looking for genuine male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384349

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTm male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, non materialist well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional male, 60's for simple joys. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379891

ANGELA Scottish female, dark hair, green eyes, attractive, new to the area, no ties, OHAC, seeks gentle male for good times and more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382227

FEMALE 74, 5ft 1ins, artistic, versatile, seeks nice caring gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378465

LADY late 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403

SHIRLEY young looking tall attractive fit female, OHAC, open-minded, varied interests seeks tall male for genuine dates. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380005

TANYA attractive, fit, slim, fun, all a hot blooded male wants! Now I have your attention, 37yr single female looking for the real deal. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381335

LISA attractive dental nurse 25, been hurt in the past, looking for romantic male, 35-50yrs for loving friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382201

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163

BLACK female, professional, African, 5ft 2ins, size 12, late 30's, hardworking, no ties, seeks man for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389909

PAT 70's, 5ft, cuddly, seeks male for friendship and days out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389521

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388039

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTm uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389221

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133

REBECCA brown hair/eyes, medium build, shy, likes animals, N/S, likes cosy nights in, walks, gardening, cuddles, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375995

JACQUELINE 48, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks male, 40-58 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370747

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217

ELIZABETH independent, no ties, solvent, fit and healthy, looking for similar passionate male, any age/looks for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375161

SASHA 28yr old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375131

LIFE begins at 40! Pam outgoing athletic brunette, tall, slender and attractive, WLTm older male with big personality for lots of fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374155

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589

CLAIRE Gorgeous fun loving brunette, 29, 5ft 4ins, employed, OHAC, looking for manly male up to 45yrs for good times and fine wine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107

FEMALE 42, African, understanding, seeks romantic, understanding, outgoing male, 45-50 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383001

SUSAN 53, 5ft 3ins, slim, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, looking for male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380317

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim female with GSOH, WLTm male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443

JACQUELINE 49, medium build, brown hair, likes animals, nights in/out, coastal walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381439

JAYNE tall blonde, blue eyes, attractive, OHAC, no ties, enjoys nights out, romantic nights in, WLTm male up to 55yrs for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381365

Men Seeking

MALE seeks female with GSOH for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389724

ROBIN mid 50's, GSOH, open-minded, likes movies, cosy nights in, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389678

SEAN likes nights out, seeks female for dates, fun times and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385457

MALE 57 seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385455

MALE 44, kind, honest, caring, hurt in past, own home, seeks female for nights out, romance and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385325

MALE 44, kind, honest, caring, own home, hurt in past seeks female for friendship and romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383151

CHRIS 33, likes marathon running, nights out, cinema, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382959

EASYGOING cheerful, decent man, 64, 6ft, 13st, blue eyes, educated, romantic, seeks nice, slim, elegant female, 47-57. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382933

EARLY 40's male, handsome, strong, looking for fun times with likeminded female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389128

IAN blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, likes pubs, meals out, holidays, cinema, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384817

SINCERE warm man, 66, 5ft 9ins, seeks affectionate lady for fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384371

CANTERBURY male, 56, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim black/white/Asian/Oriental female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379673

DAVID 65, slim, 5ft 8ins, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384707

YOUNG male, 55, seeks attractive black girlfriend, N/S, likes country pubs, seaside, music, semi professional musician. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383151

MALE 44, professional, good looking, friendly, nice smile, seeks female, any age/race for rewarding conversation and fulfilling times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385149

47YR old male, dark hair, slim-medium build, loving, genuine, likes holidays, theatre, beach walks, cinema, seeks female 35-63 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385141

ANTHONY 60, 5ft 10ins, green eyes, well built, likes a laugh, nights out, soul music, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389574

STEVE designer, 5ft 10ins, good looking, seeking friendly lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382601

MALE 42, clean shaven, seeks younger playmate for fun and games. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385465

JIM N/S 65, retired, 5ft 8ins, CD, seeking dominant male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385305

RYAN medium build, brown hair, looking for male for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381211

JOHN 59, seeking fit, assertive male, 49-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377817

JOHN 50, gay, non scene, looking to meet younger guy under 24 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389342

JOHN gay male, 51, non scene, 15st, blue eyes, smoker, likes football, films, seeks younger 18-24 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384463

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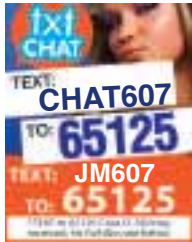
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News

INTERIORS

Be inspired to improve your home while celebrating 60 years of great British living

ORGANISERS say a home and garden show being staged at the Glow exhibition centre, Bluewater, will also celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The Great British Home Show 2012 will be held in the new £60 million events venue over the Bank Holiday weekend from May 31 to June 4, and is expected to welcome thousands of visitors.

The theme of the show, 'reveal your hidden home', recognises that people are choosing to stay where they already live and will showcase thousands of inspirational new ideas and products from the best that Britain has to offer.

Alongside hundreds of exhibitors, there will be a Diamond Jubilee street party across one level of the Glow complex, complete with a village green, bandstand, sports village and traditional market stalls all surrounded by gardens designed especially for the show.

The street party will also give visitors the chance to peek inside a typical house from 1952 to see how life in the great British home has changed since the



Queen ascended to the throne. The outside loo was still commonplace, post-war rationing on tea finally ended, and just eight homes in every 100 had TVs.

"This is a unique exhibition which will bring a new experience for visitors, with the chance to see and buy all the latest in contemporary design for the home and garden," said Nick James, event director for All About Brands, the company behind the show.

Exhibitors are chosen to ensure visitors can discover the widest possible

range of home design from furnishings, kitchens and bathrooms to how to integrate technology into your home.

There will be demonstrations and advice from celebrity experts, including how to choose interior schemes, through to exciting ways to make the most of the space you have, both indoors and out.

"There is no need to move home, this show will focus on making the very best of what you have. We are sure every visitor will leave the event bursting with ideas and inspiration," said Mr James.

AT HOME:

The Glow exhibition centre will be hosting The Great British Home Show 2012

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KENTEVENTS

News

HISTORY

Photos reveal dreams of the past as amusement park looks to the future

Picture: MICK TWYMAN COLLECTION

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

FANS of amusement parks can now see pictures of Dreamland in its heyday.

The Dreamland Trust has put the pictures dating back to the 1920s on the flickr website.

Suzannah Foad, who looks after the archive, said: "The majority of the collection came from John Hutchinson, who had been collecting them for around 30 years. His family donated them after he died."

The images record the amusement park's history up until the 1980s.

Ms Foad said: "The sheer amount of people in some pictures is unbelievable. In 1920, the year it opened, half a million people went on the scenic railway. It would be fantastic if we could get that again."

At present there are around 350 images, but the trust is



POPULAR: Crowds flocked to Dreamland in its popular heyday

keen to hear from anyone who may have pictures of the park down the ages. It will also be recording aural histories from people who worked there.

Ms Foad said: "There is a man who painted posters and a brakeman on the scenic railway, accounts we would not know from the newspapers."

The flickr site is due to be updated every month.

Ms Foad said: "The pictures of the zoo are interesting. There was one incident in the 1950s

when 20 monkeys escaped from the zoo. They were found on rooftops, in the churchyard and in a cupboard."

The site is expected to become into an amusement park based on historic rides. Officials are awaiting the outcome of a public inquiry into Thanet District Council's plans to compulsorily purchase the site to turn it into a heritage attraction.

To see more of the photos visit www.flickr.com/photos/dreamlandmargate/.

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KENT REMEMBERED

Hear blood cries of the French invasion

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN heroic defence of Dover Castle saw off a French invasion after soldiers arrived in their droves from across the Channel in 1216.

In fact, the little-known invasion was so successful, many barons in Kent and the rest of England even acknowledged the new rulers.

This particularly Gaelic slice of Kent history is contained in a fascinating new book by university lecturer Sean McGlynn.

Within the pages he examines just how the French came to run over a third of England, using Kent as their gateway to the rest of the country. The occupation lasted around 18 months, and much blood was spilled during the time.

Mr McGlynn, from Bath, said: "Many barons acknowledged the French leader, Prince Louis the Lion, as the new king of England, as did the king of Scotland, who came all the way down to Dover to pay homage to him.

"This is the first ever book on the subject and comprehensively covers the dramatic and bloody events of the invasion.

"These include the most detailed and complete account ever of the bloody siege of Rochester in 1215, plus the landing on the Isle of Thanet in May, 1216."

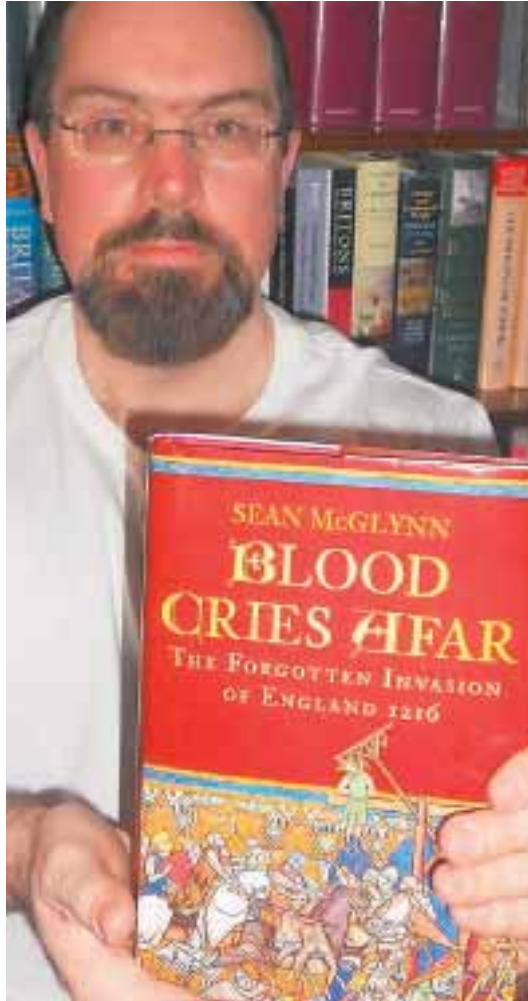
The author said he also covers in detail the siege of Dover Castle; the role Canterbury and the Cinque Ports played; the fall of Tonbridge Castle; the brutal naval battle of Sandwich in 1217 that ended the invasion, and the burning of the town.

The University of Plymouth lecturer said: "Sitting in a university lecture many, many years ago, the professor made a passing comment on how, near the end of King John's reign in 1216, the French had invaded England, occupied one-third of it, and had their leader hailed as King Louis I.

"And that was it. I was immediately hooked and tried to read more about it. But there was very little to be read.

"After my postgraduate studies I spent a spell in 'the real world' but found I was missing my history too much, so I returned to my first love and began teaching, university lecturing and writing, my first book appearing in 2008.

"After years of research – and still hooked – I have finally written the first book on the topic:



HISTORY MAN: Sean McGlynn's book recounts the French invasion

Blood Cries Afar: The Forgotten Invasion of England 1216.

"The process included visits to Kent, the epicentre of the French invasion, and especially to the always magnificent Dover Castle. The French besieged the castle for the best part of 18 months, but could never take it, thanks to its heroic defence.

"The surprising and dramatic events of the siege are told in great detail in the book.

"Some chroniclers at the time believed it was the failure of the French to take Dover that caused the invasion to fail.

"The final death blow to the invaders was the great, bloody naval defeat off Sandwich, which the French had burned in August, 1217, Britain's medieval Trafalgar moment and far more important than Nelson's victory.

"And let's not forget the epic siege of Rochester Castle in 1215, which triggered the French invasion. I still find the story an exciting one, with epic battles and sieges, and characters such as Louis the Lion, 'Bad' King John, and yes – he really was as bad as they say, William Marshal, known as the best knight in the world.

"There's also my personal favourite, Eustace the Monk, who became a successful pirate with a passion for wind-breaking, cross-dressing and foul-mouthing.

"This was almost a second Norman Conquest, which was 150 years earlier, and its fate was decided in Kent."

Blood Cries Afar: The Forgotten Invasion of England 1216 by Sean McGlynn is out now, priced at £20 for the hardback.

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OPINION

Beware the cost of growth

Hilary McGrady of the National Trust explains why the final version of the National Planning Policy Framework must protect beauty

FOR decades England's planning system has protected much-loved places from harmful development – and steered development to those areas where it's needed.

Last July, the Government published its draft National Planning Policy Framework; a 52-page document which could change the face of the English landscape forever by releasing swathes of greenfield land for development.

The National Trust exists to promote the preservation of all special places, not just those places we own or have covenants over. That is why, as soon as we realised the potential impacts of the draft planning policy framework, we launched our Planning for People campaign.

Almost a quarter of a million people have now signed our petition which states: "We believe in growth – but not at all costs.

Planning for people combines long-term growth with other important things like local character and space to breathe, tranquillity and beauty. We need a system that serves all our interests, from commerce to communities."

For the last six months we have been calling on Government to rewrite their framework to safeguard the long-held principle of good, balanced planning. We have submitted a formal response to the consultation asking for a number of changes, including a clearer definition of the term "sustainable development", used throughout the document.

A robust planning system can and should be a tool to deliver long-term, smart growth. Good planning provides a golden opportunity for an urban renaissance, and sensitive, locally-driven evolution of our countryside. As it stands, the

draft NPPF will not deliver this.

Being based in the South East I am all too aware of the particular pressure on counties such as Kent to allow inappropriate development. The consequences of the NPPF's permissive approach would be felt more keenly here than anywhere else in the country.

Last year ended on a high note for our Planning for People campaign, as the Communities and Local Government Select Committee published its report on the draft NPPF. This reiterated many of our own concerns with the proposed changes to the planning system. To hear these views echoed by a cross-party group of Conservative, Labour and Lib Dem MPs was very encouraging, and a huge boost to all of our efforts.

The committee's inquiry was originally requested by planning minister and Tunbridge



6699

A robust planning system can be a tool to deliver long-term smart growth

Wells MP Greg Clark, who is now considering the findings before he finalises the NPPF.

We hope Mr Clark will stand by his commitment to take full account of the committee's conclusions. We will keep up the pressure on him and other ministers as they consider the thousands of consultation responses they have received.

We are on daily alert for publication of the final NPPF, which could happen any time before the end of March. Having worked constructively to suggest specific changes to the draft, we are expecting the document to be greatly revised. You can be sure we will pay close attention when it is published. We hope you will too.

See www.planningforpeople.org.uk or <http://ntplanning.wordpress.com/> for our blog.

■ **Hilary McGrady is National Trust director for the South East.**

KOS COMMENT

Mortgages scheme a welcome development

UNLIKE the generations before them, today's young people wanting to take that first step on the property ladder are faced with a hard – and often impossible – task.

Demands for huge deposits mean hardworking individuals, couples and families are forced instead to rent, forking out dead money on somebody else's mortgage.

But finally through the economic gloom there seems to be a glimmer of hope, thanks to the new council mortgage scheme. And the knock-on effect will likely mean more jobs.

As councils make huge spending cuts in their budgets, it's good to see them investing in something which could help boost the local economy.

Get ready for a party

IT'S time to dust off the bunting in preparation for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The Queen herself has asked that communities get together and celebrate. So gather up your neighbours, dig out your best china and throw a street party that would make her proud.

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Crime figures are wrong

My house was broken into last year in November.

This week I had an old fridge freezer taken from my property, no-one asked if they could have it. It was down by the side of my garages and not easily seen from the roads.

So it meant that the people who took it came on to my property without permission, to remove it.

You would need a truck to take it away. It could be the same people who broke in.

A petty theft but it just shows the people that are about – who will take anything nowadays.

They have no respect for you or for your property.

It is a meaningless incident for our under-staffed, under-funded and over-worked police. It is therefore yet another incident that the authorities will ignore and so

keep giving false crime figures.

It is another example that crime will only increase more and more. Joe Public will then start handling these incidents themselves, if they find the perpetrators.

Adrian Ottley
Birchington

It's more like global freezing

Hundreds of people have died across Europe in the worst freeze for decades. Where's the 'global warming' Ray Duff keeps batting on about, or maybe this would have been even worse without it.

We're told the Thames could freeze over again, as it did in the 1700s, when they were too ignorant of environmental change to become hysterical about it.

Maybe people have made such alterations in their lifestyles, that we now have global cooling. Perhaps we can all worry about that instead of

the real elephant in the room, over-population of this planet and the exhaustion of its finite resources by idiots who talk about continual growth.

Phil Granger,
West Malling

The winner is still waiting

Re: the question of a raffle for being the one to blow up the towers at Richborough (Letters, January 29).

Your correspondent is correct, a young lad of about 11 years won the prize.

He has probably married now with kids.

Tom Stack, Minster Ramsgate

Support young entrepreneurs

Following a letter to the Telegraph on January 20 and, subsequently, a thread on Twitter, I am heartened by the

proposal made by Richard Branson to the Government.

Supported by a range of entrepreneurs and organisations, Sir Richard is advocating for a Youth Investment Fund. The idea is to offer a loan to enable a young entrepreneur to start up a business rather than study at university.

The fund would run along similar lines to a university loan scheme, the recipient paying back a loan once they are in a position to do so. I suppose the main difference is the young entrepreneur would be contributing to society immediately instead of waiting a minimum of three years.

The Twitter thread #youthinvestmentfund created a fair amount of interest and support is wide ranging.

Kent Foundation for Young Entrepreneurs is the county's only charity that specifically supports young people to start up in business, and we applaud the initiative.

University is not the only answer for young people, employment is hard to find and unemployment is no goal in life. We believe in the fourth option, becoming an entrepreneur and Richard Branson's idea would help the hundreds of potential young entrepreneurs we meet each year.

Paul Barron, Kent Foundation for Young Entrepreneurs

Humiliation is not for drivers

Two weeks ago you carried a picture of gloating Nazis publicly humiliating a person of Jewish origin. In the same edition there was a story about 'speeding' drivers being publicly humiliated by primary school children.

As somebody who has driven for over four decades without injuring anyone, I would not want to be publicly humiliated in this fashion by children who are not even

allowed a licence for another 10 years.

As drivers under the 30mph speed limit were not stopped, hence safe (?) what will happen when the limit is reduced to a more trendy 20mph?

Will all drivers above the new 20mph limit, then be subject to the same demonisation and public humiliation?

The dumbed down pinnacle of safe driving is now seen to mean driving under the speed limit (however arrived at), therefore you would not expect any real intelligent policing.

Terry Hudson
Herne Bay

EU is holding back new jobs

The biggest problem facing the European Union at the moment is unemployment.

Eurostat figures indicate 24 million men and women in the 27 European Union member states, of whom 16.5 million were in the euro area, are unemployed.

It surely must be the way forward for economic development of the European Union, for Eurocrats and MEPs to get out of the way of businesses who want to create jobs.

Europe must stop this tendency of passing anti-job creation directives, and allow employers and businesses to grow companies. What the Conservatives in the European Parliament are calling for is the abolition of the Employment and Social Affairs directorate in the European Commission, which has acted as a barrier to job creation.

This directorate must be scrapped and a repatriation of its responsibilities must go to national governments. Then we could scrap the Working Time Directive, the Agency Workers' Directive, the Pregnant Workers' Directive and the other barriers to actually employing people.

We cannot create jobs by talking about them. In fact, we Eurocrats and MEPs can't create jobs at all. What we can do is get out of the way and allow entrepreneurs to invent, make, sell. That's where employment growth comes from. And that's where social security comes from too.

Please contact me at richardjames.ashworth@europarl.europa.eu.

Richard Ashworth
Conservative MEP
the South-East

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Business Week

Your business is our business

Government hands out millions in bid to revive country's flagging recovery

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

SOUTH-EAST England is to receive £33 million from the Government to fund its Local Enterprise Partnership.

And in addition Kent will get more than £2.8m towards the cost of development and infrastructure improvements.

The Government says it is funding communities with ambitions for economic growth across the UK with a cash outlay of almost £1 billion – with Kent getting a generous share of the grants.

Ministers have confirmed the allocation of the £500m Growing Places Fund, designed to boost growth by getting the required infrastructure built to enable the creation of new homes and jobs and get stalled projects moving.

The funding has been allocated to the country's 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP), which will decide what to prioritise locally.

In total, the South East – which in this context consists of Kent, Essex and East Sussex – will receive £33,226,094.

The South East LEP will consider a short-list of schemes for funding and an announcement on the first tranche of allocations will be made on the successful projects in the next few weeks.

Chairman John Spence said: "This funding will help provide a shot in the arm for the economy of the South East and the whole country."

"It is right that Government supports the businesses and local authorities from across the South East LEP to develop local solutions for local challenges."

"We are clearly geared up to put this funding to work as quickly as possible and will respect the principles of subsidiarity in ensuring that



MONEY UP FOR GRABS:

Almost £1 billion will be given to the UK's 38 LEPs, with the Government hoping it will stimulate economic growth by the creation of new jobs and getting the stalled recovery started again. MP Gordon Henderson would like to see money diverted to the Sheerness area after the job losses at Thamesteel, left



our local partners – both private and public sector – use it to drive real growth across the LEP."

The fund can be used to establish revolving funds to take forward a range of projects that can help boost economic growth, as Local Enterprise Partnerships offer funding to developers but also secure a return on that investment.

In addition, Housing Minister Grant Shapps has confirmed a cash boost to 353 councils – including Kent County Council – which will receive £2,838,576 out of a share of the £432m New Homes Bonus funding.

This can be spent on regenerating town centres, reinvigorating treasured local assets or reinvesting in services and enterprise.

Westminster says councils and communities will be able to work together to decide how best to spend their New Homes Bonus.

Andrew Aves, development manager of the Federation of Small Businesses for Kent and Medway, said he was delighted at the news.

"It will offer opportunity for businesses to expand and develop and so create jobs," he said.

"Quite clearly one of the things which was inhibiting economic progress was a lack of available resources, so this is another reason to be positive about this announcement."

"I would like to see money spent on improving Kent's broadband connections, especially in rural areas. This would enable small businesses operating away from town centres to increase

their range of activities. Also transport bottlenecks on the roads could be improved and the High Speed 1 rail network extended to Dover and Thanet."

Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson said he hoped some of the cash could be made available to increase the economic prospects of the Isle of Sheppey by making it an Enterprise Zone.

"In the wake of the job losses at Thamesteel I consider that very important," he said.

Folkestone and Hythe MP Damian Green said he would like to see more businesses attracted to Folkestone. "We already have a creative hub and it would be good to see media-related companies coming to the town," he told KOS Media.

"We have excellent transport links to London and very reasonably-priced properties."

Mr Shapps said: "The Growing Places Fund will unlock further sites for development, creating new jobs in those areas, while the New Homes Bonus recognises the efforts that have been made over the last year to deliver thousands of new homes and bring empty properties back into use."

"I look forward to seeing how this significant investment will change the shape of communities across the country."

Transport Secretary Justine Greening said: "Transport provides the crucial links that allow people and businesses to prosper."

"This investment will develop and improve the infrastructure that moves goods and people around, helping to build the balanced, dynamic and sustainable economy that is needed for our future prosperity."

"The fund is also a unique opportunity for Local Enterprise Partnerships to establish a rolling investment programme and leverage the private sector to continue to deliver future projects that maximise economic benefit."

"Our vision is for a transport system that is not only an engine for economic growth but also one that is safer, more environmentally friendly and improves quality of life in our communities."

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership is a partnership involving leaders from business, local government and further and higher education. It covers Kent, Medway, East Sussex and parts of Essex, including Southend and Thurrock

Dame Kelly up and running for hospice dinner

DOUBLE-Olympic gold winner Dame Kelly Holmes is limbering up for the Torchlight Dinner – Hospice In The Weald's 2012 black-tie corporate dinner – where she is the guest speaker.

Dame Kelly will share her experiences of what makes a winner and how sport can provide people with inspiration at the Haver Castle event on Friday, February 24.

The Olympian has been a supporter of Hospice In The Weald for many years.

The charity became close to her heart when her coach Dave Arnold died at the hospice two years to the day that she won

the 1,500m gold medal in Athens.

She said: "I always believe in helping others, and what Hospice In The Weald does to help patients and their families get through what could be the worst time in their life is unbelievable," said Dame Kelly.

The Tunbridge Wells branch of Handelsbanken and the award-winning accountancy firm Creaseys, also based in Tunbridge Wells, are headline sponsors for the event, while Brolley is sponsoring the champagne reception.

Guests will be able to bid on auction prizes, including a VIP day out at the RHS

Chelsea Flower Show, lunch for six at Coutts in London, fishing at Castle Forbes in Scotland, dinner for six cooked by Hari Covert in your own home and tank-driving and afternoon tea at Newick Park.

There will also be a silent auction, with donations from Chilstone and Knowle Grange Health Spa among others.

A highlight of the evening is a raffle with a grand prize of an overnight stay for two in the penthouse of the Corinthia Hotel in London, including dinner for two in The Northall, breakfast and two one-hour spa treatments.



CALL TO ARMS: Dame Kelly

Hospice benefits after generous deal brokered

A CHARITY that supports terminally-ill patients and their families has tied up with an insurance broker to benefit from an innovative fund-raising opportunity.

Supporting more than 350 patients at any time and with running costs of more than £3.6 million a year, The Heart of Kent Hospice in Aylesford is

heavily dependent on the generosity of its community to be able to continue to provide its expert care and support for patients with advanced cancer, motor neurone disease or other life-limiting illnesses.

In the current economic climate, when more traditional fund-raising streams don't always generate the necessary

funding, the charity was seeking alternative ways of raising valuable funds.

Broker Chris Knott Insurance was able to provide just that by offering it a unique fund-raising alternative.

Whenever a hospice supporter asks Chris Knott for a car, home or business insurance quote, the broker will

donate a quarter of its earnings on the resulting policy to the hospice.

It will then do the same at renewal during the life of the policy.

Caroline Brinkman, corporate fund-raiser at the hospice, said: "Our supporters are already buying their insurance from somewhere, but we're

asking them to try The Heart of Kent Hospice scheme.

"If the cover and the cost are comparable, why wouldn't they switch and benefit their local hospice? I would encourage individual supporters and our corporate partners to call for a quote at renewal time."

Neil Franklin, MD of Chris Knott Insurance, said: "We

love helping local charities to raise funds in this way and I'm personally delighted to be working with The Heart of Kent Hospice.

"Hospices do such vital work in our communities and it's our pleasure to give fund-raising assistance to one of the region's best-respected providers of palliative care."

'Confidence sparking a surge in buy-out action'

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THERE has been an increase in acquisitions in the manufacturing sector, according to a corporate-finance team.

The team in Crowe Clark Whitehill's Tunbridge Wells office says an increase in confidence for an export-led economic recovery has prompted the activity.

As well as seeing a rise in enquiries from prospective vendors and purchasers, the team has just completed advising on the purchase of Milton Keynes manufacturer Europtica International Limited by Surrey-based Bridgwater Bros Holdings Limited (BBH).

Europtica produces re-circulation, filtration and chilling machines used in lens production laboratories all over the world, notably supplying key customers in the US and Japan for many years.

The company's export success has just seen it deliver its first orders to Korea and Australia.

With the founder owner wishing to retire, BBH made an offer that provided the resources to support further growth while allowing for such a withdrawal.

The acquisition of Europtica, which reported a net profit margin of 31 per cent in its most recent accounts, will allow BBH to



BUILDING SUCCESS: Geert Struyven says that the deal was an excellent opportunity

expand its existing portfolio of niche companies and take annual group sales through the £10 million barrier.

Crowe Clark Whitehill advised on all aspects of the deal, leading BBH through the investment process and also advising on specific areas of negotiation.

George Reynolds, BBH managing director, said: "In recent years, Europtica has expanded its offering to a number of new overseas markets and it is probable that other UK businesses will have to follow this example, with future growth needing to be driven by increased exports, notably outside the EU.

"Crowe Clark Whitehill's specialist experience and due diligence was invaluable in helping us identify and address key deal issues, enabling us to complete the transaction within a tight timeframe while maintaining an amicable relationship with the vendor."

Geert Struyven, corporate finance partner at Crowe Clark Whitehill, said: "In the case of Europtica, the acquisition provided an excellent opportunity for BBH to build upon the success already achieved by this well-managed company and develop it further into overseas markets.

"This is also reflective of an increased level of activity and interest in the manufacturing sector, with potential investors particularly interested in companies who have a uniquely-engineered or designed product."

Jobs boost as car firm opens new showroom

VAUXHALL retailer St Leonards Motors (SLM) is tackling the tough economic times head on by opening a new site in Tunbridge Wells.

SLM has been established in the South East for more than 50 years, with its Vauxhall site in Hastings offering a range of new and used cars, commercial vehicles and even a dedicated bodyshop. The retailer is now expanding the business across new horizons, with a new site set to open in Kent next month.

SLM managing director Ian Wakeford said: "Here at St Leonards Motors, we have been keen to find an opportunity to expand and grow our Vauxhall franchise. With the magnificent site soon to open on Dowding Way in Tunbridge Wells, we can certainly deliver on all accounts.

"The building is undergoing a complete refurbishment before it opens in February and will offer new- and used-car sales, vehicle servicing and a fully-stocked parts department, all under one roof."

The showroom opens up a number of new job opportunities in the area and both customers and staff alike can feel in safe hands as



heading the new team will be Jonathan Tatlock, who arrives fresh from the SLM site in St Leonards-on-Sea, where he has served as sales manager for some three years.

Tatlock said: "We put looking after our customers above anything else, and every site within the family-run business lives, eats and breathes the same philosophy, which is why I joined the firm."

The SLM name brings with it an award-winning customer-service record, having been named in Vauxhall's first-ever Customer Excellence Awards this year.

The retailer is one of the top 40 dealerships in the UK to have achieved outstanding results in Vauxhall's customer surveys, which monitored both sales and servicing.

For more information on the new Vauxhall site, which is soon to open on the North Farm Estate at Dowding Way, phone 01424 755855 or visit www.slmvauxhall.co.uk.

Bank builds charitable relationships

CHARITIES are to gain extra help in the form of a new relationship director.

Barclays Corporate has strengthened its charity offering with the introduction of the post responsible for providing specialist support across the country and further afield.

Jon Emery, who already has responsibility for Barclays Corporate's relationships with local authorities and the education sector in Kent, will join a nationwide team of 40 specialists providing increased local-level support to the voluntary sector.

The move is a direct response to the headwinds facing third-sector organisations, which

include falling Government grants and pressure on donations.

Charities are now able to draw on a network of relationship directors across the UK. They not only have an in-depth knowledge of the voluntary sector but also understand the individual needs and issues facing the charities.

David McHattie, head of charities at Barclays Corporate, said: "With funding cuts bearing down and donations falling, charities face the challenge of reducing incomes just at a time when they are most needed.

"We believe it is essential that Barclays Corporate is able to provide increased support and advice at a local level."

One issue Barclays Corporate

will help charities tackle is how to maximise efficiencies, whether it be removing duplications in managing finances, consolidating cash balances or negotiating better deals based on economies of scale.

Emery said: "We will work with charities to explore how best to navigate the current environment and will also evaluate whether now might be the time for them to take on a modest debt to maximise incomes from their efforts.

"Scope, the disability charity, raised £20m to support fund-raising at the end of last year and other charities are exploring whether this is the right time to generate new streams of income."

Networkers throw black-tie dinner in support of vulnerable children

MORE than £3,500 has been raised for charity by The Wealden Business Group.

A black-tie dinner was held in aid of The Caldecott Foundation, the Smeth-based charity that cares for young people who have suffered cruelty and neglect.

The dinner, held at Tenterden's Little Silver Country Hotel, was attended by 120 members and guests of WBG, the business-networking organisation that meets weekly and has an active social calendar, including charity fund-raising events.

Guests, who took part in an auction, raffle and fun casino to raise funds, were welcomed by WBG chairman Chris Sturdy.

Group member Richard Harvey, who



is also chairman of Caldecott's centenary fund-raising committee, told guests that the charity was raising £750,000 to build a vocational training centre and other facilities for older teenagers to help them into the workplace and supported adult living.



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BEST EDUCATION

EARLSCLIFFE

Accent on traditional subjects and teaching rather than self-study

EARLSCLIFFE is a new, independent A-level college in Folkestone which is enrolling now for September entry.

The college is offering traditional subjects in its renovated Victorian premises on Shorncliffe Road to both boarding and day students looking for a unique, personalised post-16 education preparing them for entry to top UK universities.

Tim Fish, director, has 22 years' experience in this sector and will be giving introductory presentations from 10am to midday at Earlscliffe's first open morning, on Saturday, February 18, at The Burlington Hotel, Earls Avenue, Folkestone.

Mr Fish said: "It's undeniable that Russell Group universities prefer the so-called traditional subjects such as mathematics, the sciences and economics *etc* over what they see as softer subjects such as media and even business. We're focusing therefore on the former."

But what makes Earlscliffe different from similar institutions?

Mr Fish said: "We are a small college of no more than 80 students and we have a maximum class size of nine. We deliver nine lessons per week in each main subject, preferring to give more teaching time rather than self-study periods."

"Our weekly TRaC testing each Friday afternoon gives immediate feedback to both students and parents on progress and performance and is a useful diagnostic tool, so we can allocate extra help if needed."

Earlscliffe is more than lessons, tests and teachers – it offers competitive sports teams, regular sports sessions, cultural activities, study trips and opportunities for community service.

As part of its Extend and Enrich programme, students will take part in the English Speaking Union's annual debating competition, the University of Cambridge Science Festival, the Senior UK Mathematics Challenge competition.

All students can attend the fortnightly formal dinner, when an invited guest will tell Earlscliffe students of his or her experiences in a career as a politician, medic, artist, philanthropist, musician or business leader, for example.

Aside from experience in both International Baccalaureate and A-level institutions, latterly as a head-teacher for 12 years, Mr Fish, along with his Belgian wife Julie, has operated Sussex Summer Schools as a successful provider of residential courses for juniors since 2001, and therefore opening Earlscliffe is a natural progression for them.

"We're excited about opening Earlscliffe in Folkestone and we're passionate about providing high-quality education both in and out of the classroom," said Mr Fish.

You can speak to Tim and Julie in person on Saturday, February 18, at the Earlscliffe open morning to learn more about their approach to A-level study.

For more information about the college, you can visit www.earlscliffe.co.uk.

ROCHESTER INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

University-style approach offers college pupils ideal preparation

SIXTH form is an exciting watershed in your education, and for many it is important to have a change in environment to help prepare for higher education.

While Rochester Independent College welcomes children from the age of 11 into year seven, it is the only independent school in Kent that started as a sixth-form college specialising in exam-focused A-level study.

It offers a refreshingly different university-style approach in these educational make-or-break years, and 40 A-level subjects are taught to more than 180 sixth-formers in class sizes averaging eight pupils.

Both day and boarding places are available.

Any combination of A-levels is possible, so pupils are always studying exactly the subjects they want. An engaging team of subject specialists creates an enthusing and supportive atmosphere. Students can join for two-year A-level courses, intensive one-year A-levels after completing year 12 elsewhere, or short retake programmes.

Peter Read, from Kent Independent Educational Advice, said: "I was so impressed with the classes and teaching I saw and came away with a very positive view of the college, its ethos and aspirations."

"The priority of teaching and learning was foremost and the students projected such a positive attitude toward their studies."

Judith Wickham, an RIC parent from

ROCHESTER
INDEPENDENT COLLEGE



Maidstone, wrote: "This is just to say a very big 'thank you' to all of my son's tutors for your superb guidance, expert management of the application for law, unfailing kindness, patience and brilliant teaching."

"You taught him to think properly, to write clearly and fulfilled every promise you made to us."

While non-selective, RIC students excel at the traditional academic subjects and Ofsted judges the quality of education to be 'outstanding'.

Small teaching groups, regular testing and structured tutorial support are all contributory factors to this success.

College alumni have been welcomed everywhere from Central St Martins to the Royal Veterinary College.

A record three students are holding offers this year from Cambridge College, Trinity.

Whatever pupils want to do when they leave RIC, they'll be superbly well prepared for university entrance either in the UK or overseas.

KING'S ROCHESTER

Long-standing head steps down... but leaves school in finest of form

AFTER 26 years at the helm of King's Rochester, headmaster Dr Ian Walker will be retiring in July.

Under his leadership, King's became co-educational in 1992, and this greatly changed the nature of the school.

Dr Walker said: "Maturation of King's came about with the advent of girls and I am really pleased about that and glad that I did it."

He also founded King's Pre-Preparatory School, allowing pupils to join King's from the age of three, continuing their education, unbroken, all the way up to 18.

The pre-prep and nursery are now housed in Chadlington House, built with the assistance of a generous donation from King's old boy Lord Chadlington of Dean.

Over the years, Dr Walker has initiated many building projects and improvements to the school's facilities, and in particular the boarding houses have benefited.

King's has a flexible approach to boarding (parents can opt in and out) and the rooms are especially popular for day-pupils to move in for concentrated study during public exams.

Other additions include the Bob Doubles café, which is open to pupils and staff as well as to parents, providing them with the perfect meeting place before the weekly cathedral services to which they are always invited.

Dr Walker also campaigned to raise an impressive £350,000 for a 25-metre indoor heated pool; this is used extensively for swimming lessons, galas and kayaking training.

Foreign-language provision is a key part of King's education, with pupils as young as three



learning German as part of their everyday lessons. All languages taught may be studied up to A-level and it was thanks to Dr Walker that the school was awarded two substantial grants from the Wolfson Foundation to build language laboratories enabling the teaching of a broad range of languages, including German, French, Russian and Latin.

However, while Dr Walker has made many improvements to the facilities at the school during his headship, he said: "Buildings are just the shell of a school. The people in it are its soul."

"King's pupils are invariably lovely, good company – thoroughly decent people, culturally, ethically, spiritually and morally – and this is the real joy of the job for me."

"King's always was, and continues to be, a wonderful school. I will miss the pupils and the enjoyment of the company of my colleagues, but I leave it in good shape and I can't imagine handing it over to a better man."

Mr Jeremy Walker will take up the post of Principal at King's Rochester in September and will be at the school's open morning on Saturday, March 3, from 9.30am to noon.

The school has also been performing excel-

lently academically. King's A-level pupils who collected their results last summer achieved an average point score per examination entry of 238.5, outstripping all local grammar schools and the national average of 216.2

The students who achieved these wonderful grades last summer are now studying at top universities across the UK, including five at Oxford and Cambridge and others at outstanding Russell Group establishments such as Durham, Bristol, Liverpool, Imperial College London and Leeds.

GCSE candidates did the school proud, too.

Their achievements put them above all the Kent broad-ability, independent schools, with 92 per cent of pupils gaining 'five good GCSEs' or more.

Dr Walker said: "I am delighted that King's pupils have achieved another crop of outstanding results at GCSE and A-level – and especially in my last year as headmaster."

"I am, however, not surprised that King's has ranked so highly in the latest league tables."

"Such results are the culmination of solid hard work by our broad-ability pupils and their teachers. They are the proof that we serve our youngsters and their futures far better by offering them traditional subjects taught by supportive, inspirational staff."

"Dumbing down a curriculum with a plethora of 'Mickey Mouse' vocational subjects serves no one, and the top academic results achieved year on year by King's pupils prove that."

To hear more about the outstanding examination results at King's Rochester, you can visit the school's open morning on Saturday, March 3, from 9.30am until midday.



LEADER: King's Rochester will bid a sad farewell to headmaster Dr Ian Walker after 26 years

Training, courses and careers

Women helped back on track

MANY young women in Kent are missing out on a career in engineering because traditional university routes are closed to them because of subject choices they made pre-GCSE, according to Network Rail.

The company says one of its apprenticeships can reopen academic doors, with the company funding around 40 apprentices a year to further their education with a part-time HNC in engineering.

The best are then supported to do foundation degrees, undergraduate degrees and reach chartered engineering status.

Now Network Rail is urging young women who are interested in a career in engineering to apply for its advanced apprenticeship scheme for 2012 – with 200 places up for grabs.

Applicants can visit a new Facebook page www.facebook.com/onttrack with videos, profiles and content managed by current apprentices who can respond directly to any enquiries and showcase the opportunities on offer.

Figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency show women get better grades at university than men with 66 per cent achieving a first or 2:1 compared to 60 per cent of men.

However only 15 per cent of people taking engineering or technology undergraduate degrees are women.

Army teams up with city college

MILITARY personnel and their families are to get more help with courses and qualifications thanks to Canterbury College signing an Armed Forces Community Covenant with commanding officers of Army regiments based in the city.

It means the college will offer help and guidance to Canterbury's 650-plus military personnel and their families about its hundreds of courses that will leave them with a civilian qualification.

The Army will work closely with the college on joint projects, the sharing of skills and expertise and the mutual support of college staff and students.

Canterbury College principal Alison Clarke said: "It is a great honour and privilege to sign the covenant. I feel it's an historic moment."

"We pride ourselves on being a college at the cutting edge of new developments, and we're especially delighted to be part of this one."

"We really value the contribution that local Armed Forces have made to our community and thank them for the valuable work they do. This is a fantastic opportunity for all of us to work closely together to the benefit of the community as a whole."

Funds to support 35 new apprenticeships

UP to 35 new apprentice jobs in Swale could be supported with grants from the borough council.

The news coincides with last week's annual National Apprenticeship Week, run by the National Apprenticeship Service.

The event is designed to raise the profile of apprenticeships and to engage and persuade employers of the advantages of employing and supporting apprentices in their workplace.

It also highlights the talent and skills of apprentices and also the wide variety of apprenticeships that are available.

Swale Borough Council recently challenged local employers to recruit apprentices through the 100 in 100 scheme, which saw

70 businesses

pledge 96 apprenticeship opportunities, with 55 starts in 40 businesses in 2011.

And now, following the announcement of forthcoming government employer incentives, the council has updated the eligibility criteria for its apprenticeship grant programme.

The grant is designed to enable small or medium-sized employers to look at apprenticeships and consider employing the growing number of young people struggling to get their careers off to a start.

The grant fund, which was created by Swale Borough Council in partnership with the local 14-19 Planning Forum and Kent County Council, is part of wider efforts in the borough to grow the number of apprenticeships that are available.

As a pilot scheme funding is limited, but the new grant hopes to support up to 35 apprenticeships. The grant of £1,500 per apprentice is discretionary and to be eligible the supported apprenticeship must meet certain criteria.

The employer must be based in Swale, from either the private or voluntary sector and must employ no more than 50 staff.

It must be either offering apprenticeships for the first time or returning to the recruitment of an apprentice after a lapse of 12 months or more.

The apprentice must be resident in Swale and be on the NEET register (they are not in

education, employment or training). Candidates

must have started the apprenticeship before March 31, 2012.

Cllr John Wright, cabinet member for regeneration and

learning and skills at Swale council said: "We

are delighted to be in a position to expand the number of employers and young people eligible to benefit from this grant scheme, as well as being able to increase the grant available."

"Recent unemployment statistics have highlighted that 16 to 24-year-olds are finding it increasingly difficult to access jobs. We are determined to make a difference and encourage local employers to consider taking on apprentices."

Interested employers can contact the economic development team at Swale Borough Council on 01795 417398 or email edu@swale.gov.uk.



TRAINING: Unemployed youngsters in Swale could benefit from the council's funding

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Corinth Canal, Greek Islands & Istanbul

Escorted Rail-Cruise from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford
Fly-Cruise also available

12 days

Quote GC10-KOS

From £1199pp

Departs: 10 October, 2012

Join us on this rare opportunity to cruise through the amazing Corinth Canal, visit the breathtakingly beautiful Greek Islands and the amazing east-meets-west city of Istanbul - bustling, dynamic and full of heady aromas.

On our journey to join the cruise in the south of France we experience the thrill of European rail travel. We then cruise to some of the eastern Mediterranean's must-see destinations on board the mv Arion - one of very few liners able to pass through the Corinth Canal.

Accommodating up to 340 guests, the Arion has a friendly and intimate atmosphere. She will be exclusively



Comfort Travel upgrade with luggage handling and overnight stay in Paris also available

reserved for guests from the UK with £ Sterling the main currency on board.

PORTS OF CALL:

- Embark France - Marseilles
- Italy - Sardinia
- Greece - Katakolon
- Greece - Corinth Canal
- Turkey - Istanbul
- Greece - Santorini
- Greece - Kefalonia
- Italy - Sicily
- Disembark Marseilles

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (Ashford/Ebbsfleet departures on request) or return flight to Marseilles
- 11-night Full-Board cruise sharing a standard inside cabin - upgrades available
- All transfers abroad

Floriade & Amsterdam River Cruise

Escorted Rail-Cruise

5 Days full board

From £599pp

Quote FL6-KOS

14 to 18 June, 2012

Come with us on a relaxing river cruise to Holland's Floriade Horticultural Expo held just once every decade. From Amsterdam we cruise along peaceful Dutch waterways to Rotterdam via Utrecht, Nijmegen, Cuyk (for Floriade) and Dordrecht. Our floating hotel is the charming ms Alegria, with just 50 en suite cabins, a large, cosy lounge with bar, a library and restaurant.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (Ashford/Ebbsfleet departures on request) to Amsterdam - returning from Rotterdam
- 4-night full-board cruise sharing a standard outside cabin - upgrades available
- Entertainment
- Full-day visit to Floriade
- All transfers abroad



Free drinks with lunch & dinner

Date	Airport	Price pp
Oct 2	Gatwick	£539
Oct 6	Gatwick	£539
Oct 9	Gatwick	£479
Oct 13	Gatwick	£499
Oct 16	Gatwick	£479

Flights are on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
Gatwick to Dubrovnik outbound
Tues: depart 14.25 arrive 18.05
Sat: depart 12.20 arrive 16.10
Dubrovnik to Gatwick return
Tues: depart 18.50 arrive 20.25
Sat: depart 17.10 arrive 19.00
Subject to confirmation by Monarch Airlines

Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik Hotel Valamar Club

Air Holiday - 8 days semi-all-inclusive

Quote DV10-KOS

From £479pp

6, 9, 13 & 16 October 2012

In a stunning Mediterranean garden setting, the Valamar Club Hotel sits on the shores of Croatia's Adriatic coast just a few minutes from the magic of Dubrovnik's old quarter. The hotel's incredible

range of facilities offers everything from aerobics to table tennis, swimming lessons to football. Water-sports include swimming, diving, sailing and water-skiing from the shores of Copacabana beach.

INCLUDED:

- Return flights from Gatwick to Dubrovnik, as shown
- 7 nights at the Hotel Valamar Club, Dubrovnik, with breakfast, lunch & dinner each day including beer, wine, soft drinks & coffee with lunch & dinner
- Full activities & entertainment programme
- All transfers in Croatia



Summer in the Austrian Tyrol

Escorted Rail Holiday from London, Ashford & Ebbsfleet
8 days semi-all-inclusive
Quote AR-KOS
£899pp

9 June, 7 July & 1 Sept, 2012

This super holiday begins with a Champagne check-in at St Pancras. Meet your tour manager and fellow travellers before we embark on an exciting, feature-packed holiday to Austria's lovely

Tyrol region. Full of romantic lakes and castles and beer-drinking lederhosen-clad locals playing oompah music and marching in bands, the place can seem a bit fairy tale to the visitor at times because it is!

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne check-in at St Pancras
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Munich, Germany (Ashford & Ebbsfleet departures on request)
- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris outbound
- 6 nights semi-all-inclusive in a 3-star hotel in Alpbach, Austria
- Excursions to Innsbruck, Schwaz, Lake Achensee, Ziller Valley & Krimml waterfalls
- All transfers abroad



Britannia Hotels self-drive deals

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote BRIT-KOS

From £99pp

Hotel	Start date	Nights	Ent	Price pp
Grand Burstin, Folkestone	12, 26 March	4	yes	£109
	2, 9, 16, 23 March	3	yes	£99
Grand Hotel, Scarborough	5, 12 Mar; 16 April	4	yes	£119
	24 Feb; 9 March	3	yes	£99
Heathlands, Bournemouth	5 March	4	no	£119
	9 March	3	no	£109
Britannia, Bournemouth	24 Feb; 2 March	3	no	£99
Grand, Llandudno	27 Feb; 12 March	4	yes	£139
	2 March	3	yes	£119
Bosworth Hall, Leics	2, 9 March	2	yes	£109

INCLUDED:

- 2, 3 or 4 nights stay with dinner & breakfast each day
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm nightly (up to 11pm at Bosworth Hall) for house beers, wines, spirits & pumped mixers
- Nightly entertainment (not at Bournemouth)

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IN-PAPER • ONLINE • ON MOBILE

TO ADVERTISE:TELEPHONE: **01303 817040**FAX: **01303 817004**EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk****Joinery Estimator**

Orlestone Oak currently has a vacancy for a Joinery Estimator. Applicants should have a proven track record.

Duties to include estimating doors, windows and staircases, also oak framed buildings.

Good rates of pay offered.

Contact Mr. G Ledger glen@glen@orlestoneoak.co.uk

**find the strength**

Victim Support is the national charity helping over 1.5 million people affected by crime every year. We are looking for an outstanding person to join our team providing support to our volunteers

Service Delivery Assistant

Based in Ashford, Kent
30 hours

£13,539 pa (pro rata) plus 5% employers pension contribution

Your principle role will be to provide administrative support to the Service Delivery Team in accordance with Victim Support's National standards and local policies and procedures. This will include a range of normal administrative tasks including minute taking, postal duties, data input, collection and analysis, operation of specialist software, allocation of victim referrals to volunteers etc.

You will need over 3 months experience of undertaking, implementing and maintaining efficient administrative systems as well as the ability to work without direct supervision, prioritise work and deal with competing or conflicting demands in an organised and methodical manner

Closing date: 20th February 2012

Interviews: 5th and 7th March 2012

Please email sharon.green@victimsupport.org.uk for an application pack.

Diversity matters and we value it.



Registered Charity 298028 Company No 2158780
Registered office, Hallam House, London W1

Churchill Catering**Cook Manager & Catering Assistants**

Cook Manager - £20k | Catering Assistants - Minimum Wage
We have been awarded a prestigious employee catering contract in East Kent, and are seeking an experienced manager and staff to prepare and serve breakfast and lunch Monday - Friday, with occasional weekend morning working. 40 hours p/w

We are looking for experience, stability and the ability to produce amazing food.

For an immediate interview, please send full CV to recruitment@churchillcatering.co.uk
CT7 OAX

**Junior Animator**

We are looking for a talented

to join our successful team.

Experience in one of the following areas is essential:

2D / Flash Animation • 3D Animation

Experience in following is also beneficial:

3d modeling / texturing • Character rigging
Motion Graphics • Photoshop • Storyboarding

Please apply with full CV and portfolio examples to
Mr Damien Cooke at: d.cooke@pixelcircus.co.uk
Remuneration & benefits package will be based on skills and experience.

Closing date 17th February 2012

FULL TIME SECRETARY/MANAGER

A rare opportunity has arisen at this long established private Members' club.

You will have a strong established commercial background, preferably in golf course management and relish the challenge of growing the business and identifying new growth opportunities.

The successful candidate will receive a competitive basic salary with a performance bonus linked to profits.

If you would like to apply for this position, please contact the Chairman of the Club, Mr. T Ingleton, by email for further details at:

westgateandbge@btinternet.com

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 22 February.

BE PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY

Advertise here
Call 01303 817150

www.kentnews.co.uk

Production Operative – Assembly with inspection Focus

We are currently looking for an experienced electronics production operative with a focus towards inspection. The successful candidate will have a keen eye for detail, be quality led and take pride in their work. A good team player with experience in Soldering, PCB inspection, hand assembly and the ability to work to defined targets.

Essential Requirements:

- Recent electronics experience
- Surface Mount Inspection Skills, to component level
- Excellent soldering and re-working skills
- Experience in conventional hand assembly of through hole components
- Knowledge of electronic components
- Ability to follow written procedures
- Experience and ability to work to defined targets
- Good team player
- Attention to detail
- Good eye sight
- Good Manual skills

Desirable Requirements:

- Understanding of GMP
- Experience in the use of wave soldering equipment
- Experience of operating pick and place machinery
- Mechanical assembly, such as metal plates, enclosures, labels etc.

Wage: £7.79 per hour

Hours: Full Time 38.75 hours per week

Holiday Entitlement: 28 days (inc bank holidays)

Benefits: Contributory pension scheme and sick pay (after 3 months)

For further information or to apply please contact Suzy Khiabani
Telephone: 01843 873333, Email: recruit.europe@tvone.com or write to TV One Ltd, Unit V, Continental Approach, Margate, CT9 4JG.
Closing date for applications 29th February 2012

The future of local media

ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA

Be part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent

Digital Sales & Business Development Manager

We are looking to recruit an experienced commercial person with knowledge of digital sales in the publishing and newspaper industry. This person will be accountable for the online strategy across the KOS Media portfolio, making this an exciting opportunity with endless potential and job satisfaction.

The position may also include development ideas within the newspaper titles both in print and online. Reporting directly to the AD Director and working closely with the commercial team, you will need to be driven, self-motivated, determined to succeed and work with the minimum amount of supervision. You will on occasion be required to work from our Ashford office but most of the job will be working on the field. A full driving licence is essential.

Account Manager Field Based (x2)

Archant KOS Media is looking to recruit highly driven, confident, self-motivated team players to work on our portfolio of products which consist of newspapers, magazines and digital platforms. You will need to be able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets.

Working with an existing client base where customer service is paramount, you must also be

able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities. You will be building long-lasting relationships with organisations throughout Kent. Ideally you will be from a sales or marketing background and have the drive, tenacity and determination to succeed. Basic knowledge of computer systems is required. A full driving licence is essential.

Telephone Sales Executive FT, Permanent

If you are a highly driven, confident, self-motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, then apply for this job today.

You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory

revenues and opportunities. We pride ourselves on good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response. Media experience is not essential as full training will be given, however good numeracy, literacy and computer skills are required.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter to:

Dawn Coady, Group Recruitment Manager, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE or email dawn.coady@archant.co.uk

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CARING FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA?**

Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services is a registered charity which supports people with dementia.

We are looking for CARERS in the Gravesend, Dartford and Swanley areas to support people in their own homes. You will need to have a genuine interest in people with dementia plus patience and empathy in abundance. Experience of caring for people or NVQ level 2 required. Car drivers essential. In return we will offer you specialist training, hours to suit you, and the opportunity to work for a friendly caring charity.

Rate of pay will be £8.00 per hour, plus enhanced rates for unsocial hours.

For application forms and further information contact
Judith West 01474 533990
or email judith.west@alz-dem.org

Closing date for completed applications
27th Feb, 2012

**Care Workers**

ROCHESTER, GILLINGHAM, STROOD, WALTERSLADE, TWYDALL, LORDSWOOD

- Competitive rates of pay
- Flexible working hours
- Weekend and morning hours available
- Free training to HSC Level 2 Diploma
- 28 days' paid annual leave (pro rata)
- No previous experience necessary
- Good written and spoken English

London Care is a leading provider of care support services to vulnerable older people and children with disabilities living in their own homes.

For an application form contact the central recruitment team on 0208 795 6555 or e-mail: recruitment@londoncare.co.uk

London Care is an Equal Opportunities Employer

www.londoncare.co.uk

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**



Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

Telephone: 01303 817040 Fax: 01303 817004
Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk Online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

RECRUITMENT SENSE

where service,
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teachers from only £155 +VAT

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**WELLNESS COACHES
REQUIRED**
We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home. Full training and support available.
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INCLUSION MANAGER

This is a unique and challenging opportunity to help shape the future of this school.

When you check our Ofsted report you will see why; but you will also see the positive direction the school has already taken. We would not expect you to face this challenge without support so as a senior leader you would work with colleagues within the leadership team to build on the systems already in place to ensure the progress and attainment of all children accelerates through high quality teaching and learning. There will be a teaching commitment and ample management time to carry out this role.

Candidates will be expected to evidence:

- An excellent role model as a teacher
- An articulate vision for improving the achievement of all children and experience of supporting vulnerable groups of children in particular
- Experience of using data analysis to improve outcomes in teaching and learning
- Experience of leading and managing the performance of colleagues within a primary school
- Experience of multi-agency working to actively meet the needs of children
- A commitment to inspiring children and adults with a positive, forward - looking attitude
- A commitment to working with parents/carers

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic team player to join our supportive and hardworking staff. The Inclusion Manager will enjoy working within a positive and calm ethos, working alongside teachers and be responsible for managing a team of support staff, all of whom are committed to inspiring children to achieve their best.

The post offers the opportunity for career development and TLR payments at 2A. The successful candidate is required to have a proven record as an excellent class teacher.

Dover Road Community Primary is a large school situated in Northfleet, serving the needs of 500+ children. The school is currently housed in two buildings with a variety of annexes. A light, bright and spacious feel throughout the school supports the warm ethos which celebrates children's achievements and values all members of this exciting community school.

Visits to the school are expected; a full job description is available upon request.

Please contact the **Headteacher, Miss Rebecca Smith** on **01474 352488** or via email to office@dover-road.kent.sch.uk
Alternatively, visit kent-teach.com

Closing date: 22 February 2012

Interviews: 27 February 2012

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT



RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

DIVISIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

25 hours per week, 38 weeks worked a year

Salary: £8,167 - £8,786

Benefits include: Final salary contributory pension and 23 days pro rata paid holiday.

To support the Divisional Administrator in the day to day running of the Divisional Administration office.

Closing date: 22 February 2012

Interview Date: 6 March 2012

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Job reference: PAMC002

**Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination**



RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

SKILLS PRACTITIONER / CATERING TECHNICIAN (RESTAURANT/FRONT OF HOUSE)

25 hours per week, 37 weeks worked a year

Salary: £9,198 - £10,869

Benefits include: Final salary contributory pension and 23 days pro rata paid holiday.

To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students within the Division and to undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies.

Closing date: 22 February 2012

Interview Date: 5 March 2012

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Promoting Equality

Preventing Discrimination



PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Westlands Academies Trust



Westlands School & Westlands Primary School

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Interested in a career in teaching and joining our Graduate Teacher Training Programme?

Westlands Academies Trust has vacancies for graduates who wish to undertake school-based teacher training, whilst receiving financial support. Professional help is given to successful applicants to enable them to begin teaching classes at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

Applications are invited from graduates who are interested in teaching Science, Mathematics, English, Modern Foreign Languages, Music, PE or Design Technology at Secondary level.

There is also a vacancy in the primary sector to teach all subjects in the curriculum. Graduate Trainee applicants for Westlands Primary School must have already been interviewed and accepted by Christ Church Canterbury University.

Westlands Academies Trust has an excellent reputation for high quality training within a friendly and supportive environment. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire practical teaching experience under the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated professionals.

For preliminary enquiries, you are welcome to contact the Staff Development Leader at Westlands School. Application forms are available from the school or online. These should be returned with a CV and letter of application. CVs are not accepted without an application form.

Closing date: Monday 20 February 2012

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF
www.westlands.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Westlands Academies Trust Company No 7344732



"We grow people"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for a

CLERICAL OFFICER

Medway Scale D2, points 12 - 21

£15,039 - £19,126

(pro rata - 37 hours per week, term time only)

Abbey Court School caters for pupils aged 4-19 years with severe learning difficulties and is located on two sites at Strood and Rainham. The new appointment will be expected to work 37 hours per week (8am to 4pm Monday to Thursday and 8am to 3.30pm on Fridays), term time only across both sites to undertake reception/administrative duties at the school.

We are looking for somebody with:

- good level of education, with GCSE's (or equivalent) in Maths and English
- experience of using Microsoft Office (particularly Word and Excel)
- excellent organisational skills and attention to detail
- knowledge of school office work and SIMS database desirable
- enthusiasm and a good sense of humour

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

Closing Date: 24th February 2012

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3SP.
(Tel: 01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

PLANNING

Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

- CA/12/00019/FUL: The Old Malt House, Malthouse Road, Canterbury, CT2 7JA** Use of site for educational purposes by The King's School and including conversion of former Malt House to provide theatre, school laundry and 14 units of staff accommodation, together with the erection of a sports hall, dwelling fronting St Stephen's Road, formation of six tennis courts and associated fencing and lighting. **Applicant: The King's School**
Reason: Major development.
CA/12/00091/LB: 21 The Close, Union Road, Bridge, CT4 5NJ Internal alterations. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs D Denne**
Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/12/00143/TAM: Opposite 5 North Lane, Canterbury, CT2 7EB Installation of telecommunications cabinet. **Applicant: Harlequin Group**
Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00144/TAM: 16 Rose Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2UR Installation of telecommunications cabinet. **Applicant: Harlequin Ltd**
Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 5 March 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration

Friday 10 February 2012

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

- 12/00110/LBC Oak Cottage Iden Green Road, Benenden**
- Listed Building Consent - Relocate central heating boiler from kitchen to newly constructed utility room; Installation of boiler flue through roof above new utility room (LB)
- 12/00215/HOUSE Langton Villa Langton Road, Broadwater**
- Demolition of single storey extension and garage and construction of single storey rear extension and double garage (CA) (LB)
- 12/00003/HOUSE Innisfallen The Common, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Retrospective: Single storey garage extension with pitch roof over the extension and existing garage and lobby (LB)
- 12/00148/LBC The Tunbridge Wells & Counties Bridge Club 40 London Road, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent: Two Skydop roof extractors on north and south roofs of CT room; formation of 3.6m opening and installation of folding doors between CT room and Diana Hill room (LB)
- 12/00191/FUL Squash Rackets Club 39A London Road, Culverden**
- Exit doors from first floor to a balcony on east elevation and exit stairs to ground floor (CA)(LB)
- 12/00194/FUL Mount Pleasant House 4 - 6 Lonsdale Gardens, Culverden**
- 3 no. telecommunication antennas, 1 no. link dish antenna, associated equipment cabinets and ancillary works (CA)
- 12/00195/FUL Supermarket Site Vale Road, Culverden**
- External alterations to the north east, east and north western facing elevations. Ventilation extract flue (CA)
- 12/00196/FUL Morrisons Vale Road, Culverden**
- Installation of gates and fencing(LB)(CA)
- 12/00243/LBC Broad Oak House Mill Lane, Frittenden**
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement of 12 casement windows (LB)
- 12/00165/LBC Blackberry Cottage Rogers Rough Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Replace existing conservatory on east elevation with an oak frame structure. Remove/reposition existing SVP Partially remove wall (east elevation) between kitchen & conservatory. Remove internal wall between kitchen & dining room to form an open plan kitchen/dining area (LB)
- 12/00229/FUL Public Conveniences Maidstone Road, Horsmonden**
- Disabled toilet in existing public toilets (CA)(LB)
- 11/03514/FUL 1A 1B & 1C Bedford Terrace Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Cupboard to house 3 gas metres on wall below external stairs (CA)(LB)
- 11/03516/LBC 1A, 1B & 1C Bedford Terrace Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Cupboard to house 3 gas metres on wall below external stairs (LB)
- 12/00233/FUL Second Floor Front Office Kelly House, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Change of use from B1 Business (office use) to D2 Assembly and Leisure use for a Pilates Studio (CA)
- 12/00144/HOUSE 14 And 16 Cambridge Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Loft conversions and minor external alterations (CA)
- 12/00201/OUTMJ 1 - 66 Kemble Close, 1 - 66 Silwood Close, Lakeside, 14 - 100 Greggs Wood Road, Sherwood**
- Hybrid planning application for the demolition of 176 x 2 bed flats across 16 residential blocks including 3 x retail units and associated flats above and construction of up to 257 residential units for phases 1, 2, 3 and 4. Part Detailed: Phase 1 comprising of demolition of 66 dwellings at 1-66 Kemble Close and erection of 63 residential units, consisting of affordable rent, shared ownership and private sale units, with associated parking and landscaping. Part Outline: Phase 2, 3 and 4 including the demolition of 1-66 Silwood Close, 14-100 Greggs Wood Road (even property numbers only) including 3 x retail units and associated flats above and erection of up to 194 residential units (including up to 45 homes for older people) approximately 300 sq.m of retail floor space, allocated parking, landscaping, means of access, with matters relating to layout, scale, appearance and landscaping to be reserved (MAJOR)
- 12/00055/FUL Bentham Hill Farm Stockland Green Road, Southborough Town Council**
- Retrospective - Re-instatement of roof and extension to farm building for continued use as a farm building (PROW)
- 12/00208/FUL Hollonds Farm Langton Road, Speldhurst**
- Demolition of existing outbuildings and construction of a 4-bay garage with storage space; Existing site access road to be extended and levelled to provide vehicle turning area (LB)(CA) (DEVLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.
- You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.
- You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.
- Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 11 February 2012

Canterbury City Council

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Canterbury City Council will be held at the Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury at 7pm on Thursday 16 February 2012.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/SW/0004/2012 - Proposed development at SEP Ritham Dock Facility, Ritham Dock, Ritham, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8SR.

E.on Energy From Waste Limited is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for refurbishment and use of existing rail sidings and site infrastructure for the importation and transfer in containers of waste to the proposed Kemsley Mill Sustainable Energy Plant for use as a fuel.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13(3) OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

KCC/AS/0534/2011 - Proposed development on agricultural land off Pluckley Road, Charing, Kent.

Mr and Mrs Lam are applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the phased extraction and processing of sand and subsequent restoration. The application is accompanied by an environmental statement. The proposed development may not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated. The proposed development also affects a public right of way.

You may view this application and environmental statement via a computer link at the following locations: (a) Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford; and (b) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden.

Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement and associated details from Lynne Percival, Carter Jonas LLP, South Pavilion, Sansaw Business Park, Hadnall, Shrewsbury, SY4 4AS (Tel: 01939 210123 or lynne.percival@carterjonas.co.uk) so long as stocks last at a charge of £70 (paper copy) or £10 (CD).

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 12 February 2012



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PLANNING



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or its setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
5. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 27TH FEBRUARY 2012

SW/11/1354:
Listed Building Consent for internal alterations - 3 Ospringe Place, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/11/1564:
Listed Building Consent for removal of existing wall to ground level. Soil to be banked off to ground level - Gosmere Farm House, SHELDWICH; REASON 2

SW/12/0026:
To replace wood effect double glazed windows at front of property (ground and 1st floor) with white painted wooden sash windows - 28 St Marys Road, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

SW/12/0080:
Variation of conditions to extend the seasonal occupancy period from 1st March-31 October in any year to 1st March - 3rd January in any year - Sheerness Holiday Park, Halfway Road, MINSTER; REASON 3

SW/12/0081:
Construction of 4 x 4 bedroom detached dwellings and associated vehicle parking, plus the realignment of Rook Lane - Land at Rook Lane, BOBBING; REASON 7

SW/12/0088:
Retrospective application for car wash canopy - 67 High Street, NEWINGTON; REASON 2

SW/12/0091:
Listed Building Consent for installation of separate WC facilities to 5 workshop units - Workshop Buildings 2 & 4, Standard Quay, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/12/0094:
Extension of the existing detached 3 bedroom house with a detached garage - Windyridge, Teynham Street, TEYNHAM; REASON 2

SW/12/0107 &
SW/12/0120:
Change of use and extension of existing outbuilding to provide study and gymnasium - 40 Court Street, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning



Town and Country planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 - Article 8-Notice of an application for planning permission accompanied by an Environmental Statement

Application Reference : SW/12/0075 & SW/12/0076 JRW
Case No : 00596

SW/12/0075 - Removal to ground of Grade II* Listed (Former Working Mast House) Building 26.

SW/12/0076 - Demolition of free-standing structures potentially listed by virtue of being within the curtilage of a listed building (shed no. 1, shed no. 2, shed no. 2A, Shed no. 67, shed no. 68). Demolition of structures potentially listed through physical annexation to be altered or demolished (shed no. 25, shed no. 25W and attached sub station, shed no. 27, Rennie pumping station, Dockyard Wall adjacent to west of south (railway) gate, Rennie sea wall, below ground adjacent to Building 26).

Location : Sheerness Docks, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 1RS

THE ABOVE APPLICATION MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OF A CONSERVATION AREA AND A NUMBER OF LISTED BUILDINGS AND THEIR SETTINGS.

THE ABOVE APPLICATION IS A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AND MAY BE OF WIDER PUBLIC INTEREST.

I give notice that three applications accompanied by an Environmental Statement have been submitted to Swale Borough Council for the above development.

The application, the plans, the Environmental Statement, and any other documents submitted with it may be inspected at Planning Services, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, from 9.00am - 4.45pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00am - 4.15pm on Friday.

A copy will also be available for inspection at Sheerness Gateway, 38/42 High Street, Sheerness, Kent ME12 4NN, between 9.00am - 5.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Wednesdays 9.00am - 6.00pm and Saturdays 9.00am - 12.00pm.

Members of the public may obtain copies of the outline planning application and the Environmental Statement at a charge of £375.00 inclusive of VAT, postage and packing (while Stocks Last) from :-

RPS	Contact : Rebecca Caines
14 Cornhill	Tel : 020 7280 3200
London	Fax : 020 7283 9248
EC3V 3ND	

These applications can also be viewed via our partnership with the UK Planning website (www.ukplanning.com/swale), but this may take up to 7 days to be completed. When using this website please use application reference SW/12/0045, SW/12/0075 & SW/12/0076. You may submit any observations on the application via the website.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Planning Services Manager, Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME10 3HT by 27 February 2012.

Please note by law, any letters received have to be made available for inspection by the applicant or any other interested person.

James Freeman
Head of Development Services



Town and Country planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 - Article 8-Notice of an application for planning permission accompanied by an Environmental Statement

Application Reference : SW/12/0045 JRW
Case No : 00596

Outline Planning Application for the demolition of existing buildings and structures (except for) the retention of the existing Ambient Area W4 building and existing Cool Store No.2 building and use for Nacelle Inventory (i.e. nacelle cover, generator, gear, transformers) and Offshore Stores (i.e. storage of parts for the offshore wind turbine) up to a maximum of 26,400 sqm (GEA), proposed erection of a Blade Production building up to a maximum of 125,300 sqm (GEA); a Common Services Centre (i.e. administration and catering building) up to a maximum of 11,500 sqm (GEA); a Nacelle Production building (i.e. enclosure for the generator) up to a maximum of 12,250 sqm (GEA); Blade storage area up to a maximum of 229,185 sqm; Nacelle Storage area up to a maximum area of 57,320 sqm, tower storage up to a maximum of 101,680 sqm; Main Substation Area up to a maximum area of 3250 sqm (GEA) and facilities for Power Conversion Modules assembly and tower erection, with associated cranes/rigs. Layout, Scale, proposed internal access roads, appearance and landscaping matters are reserved. Full Planning Permission for the retention, strengthening and infilling of existing quays structures, dredging, the erection of new marine structures to create a continuous offshore transit area and quay wall, new inset berth (consisting of a new finger quay and travelling crane), relocation of the existing car terminal and berth, provision of an internal perimeter access road, and quayside storage and assembly areas. This application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

Location : Sheerness Docks, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1RS

THE ABOVE APPLICATION MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OF A CONSERVATION AREA AND A NUMBER OF LISTED BUILDINGS AND THEIR SETTINGS. THE ABOVE APPLICATION IS A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AND MAY BE OF WIDER PUBLIC INTEREST. THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT.

I give notice that three applications accompanied by an Environmental Statement have been submitted to Swale Borough Council for the above development.

The application, the plans, the Environmental Statement, and any other documents submitted with it may be inspected at Planning Services, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, from 9.00am - 4.45pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00am - 4.15pm on Friday. A copy will also be available for inspection at Sheerness Gateway, 38/42 High Street, Sheerness, Kent ME12 4NN, between 9.00am - 5.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Wednesdays 9.00am - 6.00pm and Saturdays 9.00am - 12.00pm.

Members of the public may obtain copies of the outline planning application and the Environmental Statement at a charge of £375.00 inclusive of VAT, postage and packing (while Stocks Last) from :-

RPS	Contact : Rebecca Caines
14 Cornhill	Tel : 020 7280 3200
London	Fax : 020 7283 9248
EC3V 3ND	

These applications can also be viewed via our partnership with the UK Planning website (www.ukplanning.com/swale), but this may take up to 7 days to be completed. When using this website please use application reference SW/12/0045, SW/12/0075 & SW/12/0076 "WDAApplicationNumber". You may submit any observations on the application via the website.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Planning Services Manager, Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME10 3HT by 27 February 2012.

Please note by law, any letters received have to be made available for inspection by the applicant or any other interested person.

James Freeman
Head of Development Services

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY
& VILLAGE GREENSVILLAGE GREENS
- DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF LAND AS A VILLAGE GREEN

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by Mr. D. Cowell under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks the inclusion in the Register of Town and Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green by virtue of the use of the land for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' and without challenge by the landowner for a period of over 20 years.

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221628 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, so as to arrive no later than Monday 26th March 2012. Please quote reference VGA636. Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for registration as a Village Green

An area of land of approximately 14 acres (5.6 hectares) in size consisting of woodland, known locally as the Sandgate escarpment, situated adjacent to Shorncliffe Camp (Sir John Moore Barracks), at Sandgate, near Hythe. The application excludes Martello towers 6 and 7.

Countryside Access Service Kent County Council

Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 12th February 2012

*This document is available in alternative formats
and can be explained in a range of languages.*

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit
www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/12/0003/S - BRISHING COURT FARM, BRISHING LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4NF - Installation of 2 4kWh photovoltaic arrays. Reason: 1

MA/12/0064/S - HIGHGROVE GARDEN CENTRE LTD, STAPLEHURST ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9BT - Retrospective application for the formation and surfacing of delivery and service access route; display, storage and delivery areas; provision of horticultural silo bins (proposed); and stationing and occupation of a mobile home for security and horticultural worker's accommodation. Reason: 6

MA/12/0069/S - 483, LOOSE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9UJ - Erection of a single storey rear extension. Reason: 1

MA/12/0070/S - 483, LOOSE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9UJ - An application for listed building consent for the erection of a single storey rear extension, relocation of flue, and removal of window and existing extension Reason: 3

MA/12/0078/N - 42-44, EARL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1PS - An application for listed building consent for the installation of 1No. halo lit fascia sign, 1No. illuminated projecting sign, 1No. painted wall lettering sign and 1No. internally illuminated menu box. Reason: 3

MA/12/0082/S - FORGE COTTAGE, 1, FORGE LANE, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9QG - Widening of existing dormer window, alterations to fenestration and all other associated works to facilitate conversion of two dwellings into one dwelling. Reason: 1, 2

MA/12/0083/S - FORGE COTTAGE, 1, FORGE LANE, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9QG - Listed building consent for external alterations including removal of front timber cladding to expose oak frame, block unused door and replace with matching window, replace extra deep window, extend existing dormer - changing flat felt roof to a pitched tiled roof and reposition the door and window and internal alterations including moving the staircase into the dormer and unblocking an existing opening to link the properties and all other associated works to facilitate conversion of two dwellings into one dwelling. Reason: 3

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **26th February 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Dated: **12th February 2012**



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Highways - Borough of Ashford

HINXHILL ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to lay phone ducting in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hinxhill Road, Ashford, on or after 13 February 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with The Street and Goodcheap Lane.

The alternative route is via Hinxhill Road, The Street, A2070 Kennington Road, Willesborough Interchange, A20 Hythe Road, Bockham Lane and Plumpton.

MYSTOLE LANE, (PICKLEDEN LANE) CHILHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mystole Lane, (Pickleden Lane) Chilham, on 4 March 2012 from 8.00 am until 8.00 pm.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via A28 Canterbury Road, Shalmsford Street, Thruxted Lane, Mystole Road and Pickleden Lane.

SANDYHURST LANE, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to refurbish the motorway bridge, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sandhurst Lane, Ashford, on or after 13 February 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the bridge over the M20.

The alternative route is via A20 Maidstone Road, Fougères Way, A251 Trinity Way and Faversham Road.

The planned work times are from 8.30 am until 5.00 pm with the road re-opened outside these hours with traffic controlled by temporary traffic lights.

Highways - District of Canterbury

NACKINGTON ROAD, CANTERBURY (10 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during the refurbishment of bridge expansion joints, Kent County Council has made an Order imposing a temporary maximum speed limit of 10 miles per hour on Nackington Road, Canterbury, on or after 18 February 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

This affects the section of road in the vicinity of the bridge over the A2 Trunk Road.

The Order applies when the relevant signs are on display, and is in conjunction with temporary traffic lights and a "Convoy System" to escort traffic through roadworks.

The speed limit will be implemented when it is not safe to work without this restriction.

The planned work times are from 9.30 am until 3.30 pm each day.

ST STEPHEN'S LEVEL CROSSING, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of rail replacement works at the level crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Stephen's Level Crossing, Canterbury, as shown below.

St Stephen's Road will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The planned closure times are from 1.00 am on Sunday 4 March 2012 until 4.00 am on Monday 5 March.

The alternative route is via St Stephen's Road, Station Road West, St Dunstan's Street, Forty Acres Road, Beaconsfield Road St Stephen's Hill and St Stephen's Green.

STUPPINGTON LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace bridge parapets, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stuppington Lane, Canterbury, on or after 17

February 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the bridge over the A2 Trunk Road.

The alternative route is via Merton Lane, B2068 Nackington Road, Old Dover Road, Ethelbert Road and South Canterbury Road.

Highways - District of Dover

AGESTER LANE, DENTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway pre-patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Agester Lane, Denton, on or after 27 February 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A260 The Street to where it becomes Bunkers Hill.

The planned closure times are between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm each day with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The alternative route is via the junction with A260 The Street, Canterbury Road, Reece Lane, Golden Hill, North Elham Hill and Bunkers

ASH ROAD LEVEL CROSSING, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ash Road Level Crossing, Sandwich, on 18 February 2012 between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm.

The alternative route is via Ash Road, A256 Sandwich By-pass, A258 Deal Road, New Street, Cattle Market, Harriet Street, (High Street, The Chain and Galliard Street in reverse) and Strand Street.

BROOKFIELD AVENUE & MINERVA AVENUE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Brookfield Avenue & Minerva Avenue, Dover, on or after 13 February 2012 between 7.00 am and 4.00 pm.

MINERVA AVENUE, DOVER will be closed at the junction with Heathfield Avenue.

The alternative route is via Barton Road, Nightingale Road and Mayfield Avenue.

BROOKFIELD AVENUE, DOVER will be closed between the junctions with Park Road and Buckland Avenue

The alternative route is via Brookfield Avenue, Old Park Road, Crabble Hill and Buckland Avenue.

BROOKSIDE, TEMPLE EWELL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Brookside, Temple Ewell, on or after 13 February 2012 for up to 3 days between 8.00 am and 3.00 pm, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the school gates to the foot of Church Hill.

There is no alternative route as the road is a No Through Road. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so, but there will be times when this is not possible.

Pedestrians can use the footbridge to Mill Street.

CHURCH HILL, EYTHORNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Hill, Eythorne, on or after 13 February 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Shepherdswell Road and Barfestone Road / Adelaide Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the Eythorne and Elvington via Church Hill.

The alternative route is via Shepherdswell Road, Long Lane and Barfestone Road using the un-named road joining them.

COXHILL, SHEPHERDSWELL, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of phone cable replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Coxhill, Shepherdswell, Dover, on or after 16 February 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Halfway Street, preventing through access for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Westcourt Lane, Westcourt Road, A2 Dover Road, Coldred Hill and Coldred Road.

GOLF ROAD, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Golf Road, Deal, planned to be from 16 February 2012 until 24 February or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Ethelbert Road to the Chequers Public House.

There is no alternative route. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so, but there will be times when this is not possible, and delays are to be expected.

RICHBOROUGH LEVEL CROSSING, RICHBOROUGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Richborough Level Crossing, Richborough, from Saturday 18 February 2012 at 00.35 hours until Sunday 19 February 2012 at 06.20 hours.

Richborough Road, Richborough will be closed at the level crossing.

The alternative route is via A256 Sandwich By-pass, A257 Sandwich Road, Cooper Street Drive and Richborough Road.

Highways - Borough of Gravesham

ARTHUR STREET, GRAVESEND: (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council Has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in Arthur Street, Gravesend with the junctions of Clifton Grove to Wrotham Road.

The Order will become effective on 13th February 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 15 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Arthur Street, Darnley Street, Darnley Road, Old Road West and Wrotham Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a Gas main replacement.

Highways - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOUGHTON ROAD, BOUGHTON MALHERBE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Boughton Road outside of Boughton Place on or after Monday 13th February 2012 for a period of up to 3 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Chain Gate Road, Liverton Hill, Headcorn Road, Church Road.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new telegraph pole. Should you require any further

information about these works, the contact is Craig Self of Carillion Telent on 01842 762973.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CHEGWORTH ROAD, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Chegworth Road Ulcombe from the junction of Chegworth Lane running south to junction of Water Lane on or after Monday 27th February 2012 when required for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Ashford Lane, Fairbourne Lane and Lenham Road.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to allow access for cabling works. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Louise Skull on 03700500792.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (EASTWOOD ROAD, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Eastwood Road Ulcombe between Pye Corner and The Street Ulcombe (by Eden Cottage) on or after Monday 27th February 2012 when required for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Headcorn Road, Pye Lane and Eastwood Road.

Kent Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for the installation of new gullies and associated pipework. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Alastair Coleman on 08458247800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HORSESHOES LANE, LANGLEY) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Horseshoes Lane from B2163 Leeds Road to outside number 19 on or after Monday 13th February 2012 for a period of up to 7 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Heath Road, B2163 Leeds Road.

Southern Water Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to replace the rising main. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Laura Carlisle of Clancy Docwra on 01403 282848.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PROVENDER WAY, GROVE GREEN, MAIDSTONE) (PUFFIN SIGNAL CONTROLLED CROSSING)

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local Highway Authority and in exercise of its powers under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, intends to install a pedestrian crossing of the type described in column 1 of the schedule hereto, at the locations described in column 2 of the said Schedule:

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



Schedule 1
(Puffin Signal Controlled Crossing)

Type of Pedestrian Crossing Puffin	Location
	Provender Way, at a position approximately 18 metres south east of its junction with the access to St John's C of E Primary School car park

A plan showing the proposals can be inspected during normal working hours at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone or Maidstone Borough Council Offices, King Street, Maidstone.

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

BILLET HILL, ASH CUM RIDLEY - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Billet Hill, Ash Cum Ridley between Crowhurst Lane and The Street.

The Order will become effective on 13th February 2012. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 5 days.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: The Street, Ash, Ash Road, Stanstead, Ash Lane, Stanstead, A20 London Road, West Kingsdown and Crowhurst Lane, West Kingsdown.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching works on behalf of KCC Highways.

BRADBOURNE ROAD SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Bradbourne Road, Sevenoaks.

The Order will become effective on 12 February 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 13th February 2012 and will last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Amherst Road and St Johns Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a new water connection.

COLD ARBOUR ROAD, CHEVENING SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Cold Arbour Road, Chevening between junction of A25 Westerham Road and Bessels Green Road.

The Order will become effective on 12 February 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 13 February 2012 and will last approx 2 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: A25 and Bessels Green Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching works

HARTFIELD ROAD EDENBRIDGE AND HARTFIELD ROAD COWDEN- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic travelling at any speed greater than 40mph on Hartfield Road Edenbridge and Hartfield Road Cowden.

The Order will become effective on 12th February 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 13th February 2012 and will last 5 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the restriction is to create a safe working area.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND UNLOADING AND ON STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT 24) ORDER 2009

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Kent County Council intends to make an Order under Section 1, 2, 35, 36, 45, 46, 47, 49, 53, 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, the effect of which will be;

In the parish of Shoreham

The junction of High Street and Mill Lane	New double yellow lines to prevent parking
The junction of High Street and Crown Road (by The Crown public house)	New double yellow lines to prevent parking
The bends on Church Street (near The George Inn)	New double yellow lines to prevent parking

A copy of the draft Order together with a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be inspected at the Sevenoaks District Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG between the hours of 09.00 am and 5.00 pm. Mondays to Thursdays and 09.00 am. and 4.45 pm. on Fridays.

Any person wishing to object to the making of the Order or support it should write to;

Sevenoaks TRO 2009 Amendment 24 - Formal
Laura Squires
Kent County Council Highways
Javelin Way
Ashford
Kent TN24 8AD
or respond via email to TRO@kent.gov.uk
by no later than Noon on 5th March 2012

WESTERHAM ROAD, CHEVENING - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Eastbound A25 through junction area with M25 (northbound). (Access to M25 Northbound will remain open, only from eastbound A25.

The Order will become effective on 12 February 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 17th February 2012 and will last 3 nights (23.30 - 05.00hrs). These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: B2211 Chevening Road, A224 Morants Court Rd, London Rd. Eastbound Hgv's use M25 northbound and turnaround at 1st exit (Jct 4).

Westbound Hgv's for M25 North use A21 southbound and turnaround at

1st exit (Morley's roundabout).

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway resurfacing works.

Highways - District of Shepway

CURTIS LANE, STELLING MINNIS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential carriageway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Curtis Lane, Stelling Minnis, on or after 27 February 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Stone Street and Bossingham Road.

The alternative route is via B2068 Stone Street, Grannies Hill, Lime Kiln Lane, The Street and Bossingham Street.

Every effort will be made to try and maintain access when it is safe to do so, but due to the nature of the works, inevitably there will be times when this is not possible.

HORN STREET, SEABROOK, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Horn Street, Seabrook, Hythe, on or after 13 February 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Seabrook Vale and Valestone Close.

There will be no access for through traffic between Seabrook and Cheriton via Horn Street.

The alternative route is via Horn Street, A259 Seabrook Road, Hospital Hill, West Road, Pond Hill Road, Church Road and Horn Street.

TONTINE STREET, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable the safe placement of a mobile crane to install a tower crane, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Tontine Street, Folkestone, on or after Sunday 19 February 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Tontine Street will be closed between the junctions with The Old High Street and Dover Road / Grace Hill.

The alternative route is via A260 The Tram Road (with suspension of one-way), Southern Way, Dover Road, Hill Road, Canterbury Road, Black Bull Road, A2033 Foord Road North, New Street, Bradstone Road and Dover Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Tontine Street will be suspended from the junction with The Old High Street to the point of closure and from the point of closure extending along the western spur of Tontine Street to the junction with Grace Hill, for access only.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of The Tram Road will be suspended from Harbour Street to the junction with Morrison Road (where it becomes 2-way).

The Orders preventing traffic turning left from Martello Road, Ryland Place, London Street and Elmstead Place will be suspended.

Waiting will be prohibited in Tontine Street on the north east side, from a point in line with the boundary wall of numbers 32 - 34 and 26 - 30 south eastwards to a point in line with the boundary walls of numbers 24 and 20 - 22.

Waiting will be prohibited in The Tram Road on the north west side, from the centre line of the junction with Elmstead Place south westwards for a distance of approximately 32 metres.

Both waiting restrictions take effect from 6.00 pm on Saturday 18 February until 8.00 pm the following day, and will apply for the corresponding times if these works are postponed.

If weather prevents these works going ahead on the planned date, they will be deferred until one of the following 2 Sundays.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS) (RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS OF WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING)

CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2010 (AMENDMENT NO 13) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2 and 124, of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, proposes to extend the existing "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions in Sir John Moore Avenue, Hythe within the District of Shepway.

The purpose of the proposal is to enable a safe two way flow of traffic to be maintained in a location that currently has uncontrolled parking. Currently drivers park their vehicles too close to the junction of Sir John Moore Avenue with Military Road (A259) and the result of this is a significant reduction in the flow of traffic to a single lane.

Sir John Moore Avenue is also subject to significant HGV movements and it is felt that in the interests of road and pedestrian safety the existing "At Any Time" waiting restrictions should be extended on the east side by approximately 36 metres to prevent obstruction to ease congestion and introduce two lane traffic flows.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the scheme may be inspected during normal office hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, Hythe Town Council Offices, Oaklands, Stade Street, Hythe, Kent, CT21 6BG and at Shepway District Council Offices, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY.

Anyone wishing to support, or object to the "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions proposal should write to Mrs Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB quoting the name of the Order and Reference No "B1764600" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 7 2011.

Highways - Borough of Swale

AVENUE OF REMEMBRANCE SPUR, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of tree safety works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on the cul-de-sac section of Avenue of Remembrance Spur, Sittingbourne, on or after 15 February 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Avenue of Remembrance Spur will be closed in the cul-de-sac section, in the vicinity of Tynan Cottage.

There is no alternative route as this section of the road is a No Through Road.

RAWLING STREET, MILSTEAD, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace a telegraph pole, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rawling Street, Milstead, Sittingbourne, on or after 15 February 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Horn Hill and Mintching Wood Lane.

The alternative route is via Horn Hill, Bottom Pond Road and Broadoak Road.

Highways - District of Thanet

BROAD STREET AND WOODFORD AVENUE, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of sewer repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broad Street and Woodford Avenue, Ramsgate, on or after 13 February 2012 for up to 2 weeks, as shown below.

BROAD STREET will be closed at the junction with School Lane.

The alternative routes are

Westbound via Hardres Street, Boundary Road, Chatham Street, High Street and Church Hill

Eastbound via Broad Street, Church Hill, High Street and Hadres Street.

WOODFORD AVENUE will be closed to through traffic in the vicinity of properties 39 - 69.

Access is available from either direction up to the point of closure

DANE HILL, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dane Hill, Margate, on or after 27 February 2012 for up to 12 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases starting from the junction with King Street / Dane Road. The works will be phased between the junctions of the side roads, as advised locally and signposted on site.

The alternative route for through traffic is via King Street, Trinity Hill, Trinity Square and Northdown Road. The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended from either direction up to the point of closure, to allow access.

Every effort will be made to try and maintain access when it is safe to do so, but due to the nature of the works, inevitably there will be times when this is not possible.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

**DANE ROAD, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of essential carriageway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dane Road, Margate, on or after 27 February 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The section of Dane Road to be closed is between the junctions with Addington Street / Dane Hill and Victoria Road / Bath Road.

The alternative route is via Wilderness Hill, Northdown Road, Trinity Square, Trinity Hill and King Street.

Addington Street will be closed at the junction with King Street / Dane Road, with the alternative route of Union crescent, Hawley Street and King Street.

Dane Hill will be closed at the junction with King Street / Dane Road. The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended for access only.

Bath Road will be closed at the junction with Dane Road. The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended for access only.

**KING STREET & LOVE LANE, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on King Street & Love Lane, Margate, on or after 1 March 2012 for up to 2 weeks, as shown below.

KING STREET will be closed in phases between the junctions with Hawley Street and Broad Street

LOVE LANE will be closed for its entire length

The alternative through route for these closures is via Trinity Hill, Trinity Square, Fort Crescent, Fort Hill, and Fort Road (plus Broad Street for Love Lane).

The One-way Traffic Orders in respect of Love Lane, Broad Street and King Street, between the junctions with Hawley Street and Broad Street, will be suspended to allow access.

**MONKTON ROAD, MINSTER & MONKTON STREET,
MONKTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Monkton Road, Minster & Monkton Street, Monkton, on or after 13 February 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases working from the junction with High Street / Tothill Street towards the gated junction with the A253 Canterbury Road.

The alternative route is via Willets Hill, A299 Canterbury Road West, Tothill Street and Monkton Road.

Side roads will be closed at their junctions with Monkton Road / Monkton Street as the works progress, with local diversions signed on site where available.

Certain sections of the road have no alternative routes and every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so. There will be some times when this is not possible, and delays are to be expected.

A further closure will be necessary later in the year for resurfacing.

**WEST CLIFF ROAD, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on West Cliff Road, Ramsgate, on or after 13 February 2012 for up to 5 nights or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in sections between the junctions with Grange Road and Addington Street, as signposted on site.

The road will be closed between 7.00 pm and 7.00 am each night, and re-opened outside these hours.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Grange Road, St Augustine's Road,

Paragon, Royal Parade, Leopold Street and Queen Street Westbound via Elms Avenue, Ellington Road, South Eastern Road and Grange Road.

Works will be done by UK Power Networks, Southern Water and KCC during the same closure.

**Highways - Borough of
Tonbridge & Malling****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(THE STREET, IGHTHAM)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on The Street from the junction of Fen Pond Road to Busty Lane on or after Monday 13th February 2012 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Sevenoaks Road, A25 Ightham Bypass, A227 Borough Green Road and for Large Goods Vehicles via A227 to Tonbridge, Borden, A26 Hadlow Road, Tonbridge, A26 Tonbridge Road, Hadlow, High Street, A26 Maidstone Road Hadlow, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, A20 London Road, A25 Maidstone Road, Borough Green, A25 Sevenoaks Road, Borough Green, A227 Borough Green Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to replace pipework linking three gullies and raise dropped kerbs. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alastair Coleman on 08458 247 800.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(THE STREET, RYARSH)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on The Street from Workhouse Road to Old School Lane on or after Monday 27th February 2012 for a period of up to 5 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Roughetts Road, A20 London Road, A228 Leybourne By-Pass, Bull Road, Birling Road, Bull Road, Ryarsh Road, Birling Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new drainage system. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alastair Coleman on 08458 247 800.

**HIGHWAYS - BOROUGH OF
TUNBRIDGE WELLS****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CLAYHILL ROAD, LAMBERHURST)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Clayhill Road from B2169 Furnace Lane to Mount Pleasant on or after Monday 13th February 2012 for a period of up to 2 months or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Mount Pleasant, Mount Pleasant Lane, Parsonage Lane, B2162 School Hill/The Broadway, B2100 High Street/Town Hill, B2169 Furnace Lane.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for bridge repairs. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Colin Garner on 08458 247 800.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LADHAM ROAD, GOUDHURST)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Latham Road on or after Monday 13th February 2012 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Jarvis Lane, Chequers Road.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to lay a new cable. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Derek Petts of TMS Ltd on 01622 632519.

For further information, please contact

Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, BIDBOROUGH, TUNBRIDGE WELLS)
(SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 82 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce various speed limits on the following road or lengths of road;

**Schedule 1
(Restricted Roads)**

B2176 Penshurst Road/Rogues Hill

High Street, Bidborough (Franks Hollow Road)

From a point 175 metres northwest of its junction with Poundsbridge Lane 255 metres northwest towards the Tunbridge Wells Borough boundary.

From its junction with B2176 Bidborough Ridge southwards to a point 260 metres south of its junction with Glebelands.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FOXHOLE LANE BRENCHELY)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Foxhole Lane from the junction with Bramble Reed Lane to outside Glenbrook on or after Monday 27th February 2012 for a period of up to 3 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Chestnut Lane, Maidstone Road, Bramble Reed Lane, and vice versa.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to allow safe access to boxes for safe cabling works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Mandy Richardson on 03700500792

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 12th February 2012



PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Public Notice**Application in respect of a Premises Licence
Mill Hill Service Station & Londis Convenience
Store, Mill Hill, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5NG.**

Notice is hereby given that We, Petrocell Holdings Limited, have applied on 6 February 2012, to the Sevenoaks District Council for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of the above mentioned premises.

The licensable activities applied for are:
To sell Alcohol for consumption OFF the premises.

The licensable hours applied for are:
Monday to Sunday: 06.00 to 22.00

Anyone wishing to make representations in respect of this application should write to the Sevenoaks District Council at the address stated below. Representations must be made in writing and no later than 28 consecutive days from the date of application.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for this offence is £5,000.

A record of this application can be inspected at:

Licensing Partnership
Sevenoaks District Council
Council Offices, PO Box 182,
Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HG.
Or www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

**Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)
(England) Order 2010 NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 11 OF
APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

Proposed development at: Land at Station Approach and George Street, Staplehurst, Kent

Take notice that application is being made by: Tesco Stores Ltd
For planning permission to: Construction of Class A1 retail store, associated parking, and petrol filling station; transport interchange comprising bus and taxi drop-off / pick-up facilities, 39 short-stay railway station parking spaces and covered walkway to existing railway station building; and 660-space commuter car park and publicly accessible nature area.

Local Planning Authority to whom the application is being submitted: Maidstone Borough Council

Local Planning Authority address: Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application, should write to the council within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Montagu Evans
8 February 2012



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For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS**AGBAJE**

With utmost joy and gratitude to God, we are pleased to announce the arrival of our gorgeous daughter HERITAGE ISEOLUWANIMI ADAEZE CHIMLURU NEWSONG. Heritage was born at the Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford, Kent, in the early hours of 8th December 2011. She weighed 9lb 11oz. Mummy and daughter are doing fine.

BYLES

Warwick Richard Byles born on the 17th January 2012, weighing 6lbs 9oz. Son to Danny and Laura in Maidstone.

HIRST

Rhys Peter born 25th January 2012, weighing 5lb 14oz. A son for Richard and Dawn Hirst and little brother for Ryan

LISTON

Wendy and Asa Liston celebrate the birth of their son Zachary Charles Liston on 20th January 2012.

READ

Emma and James are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Kathryn Read on 12th January 2012.

DEATHS**COLLINS**

Benjamin Thomas Collins "Benny" on 30th January 2012 ages 87. Devoted husband to his late wife Mary,

dearly loved dad of Anna and Sue, grandad to Kate and Tim. A steadfast friend to all. Family flowers only, donations to MacMillan Cancer Support via Clarkes, Snodland.

HARBORD

Pat 5th July 1943- 22nd January 2012. Much loved wife of Chris, mother of Ian and Tommy, nanny of Frank and Harry and sister of Tina. Missed dearly and loved forever. Donations, if desired, to the Heart of Kent Hospice.

SMITH

Frank Albert Smith passed away peacefully on the 2nd February 2012. Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather. Always in our hearts.



Go hunting
for treasure
... but do be
very careful

SEE PAGE 49



SOUNDS OF SOUL

YolanDa Brown is
bringing her sax
to The Orchard

SEE PAGE 50

Kent Weekend

Something strange

The scary, the bizarre
and the fascinating
are uncovered

SEE PAGE 46



PLUS: New restaurant joins the mix - **food and drink p47** An unusual
piece of wartime heritage is set to go under the hammer - **property p51**
BMW impresses, as always, with newly-updated 3-Series - **driving p61**

THE INTERVIEW

Martin Latham

Teapots that go bang in the night

Ghosts, pirates and explosive crockery all feature in a book on the very strange, discovers **Nick Ames**.

THE bizarre side of the rich tapestry of Kent's history and folklore is the subject of a new book by a writer who manages a haunted shop with exploding teapots.

Kent's Strangest Tales is the title of the work by Martin Latham, who runs the Waterstones bookstore in St Margaret's Street, Canterbury.

From Chaucer's legendary tales of naughtiness to the meeting of Mick Jagger and Keith Richards at Dartford train station that led to the formation of The Rolling Stones, the book features an astonishing range of tales. Ghosts, castles, treasures, pirates, Britain's oldest highway and the old ladies who tricked a Luftwaffe pilot by playing him with tea... they're all in here.

One of the ghost stories focuses on the strange happenings in Latham's own shop.

"The coffee shop in the store used to sell loose tea for pots – as opposed to just teabags," he said. "Among its regular customers was an old lady who hated teabags and wouldn't use them. She insisted on the loose tea. Well, one day she stopped coming and the opinion was that she had passed away."

"Soon after, strange things started happening to our teapots. They would practically explode for no apparent reason, spilling the contents on to the floor. It would

only happen to those with loose tea
– you can still see the stains.

“Finally the shop switched to teabags and it seemed to stop. But on another occasion I watched as a big pile of plates fell off a counter one by one and smashed.”

Latham is responsible for another remarkable facet of the store.

"I had heard rumours from the shop's previous staff that there were Roman remains under the floorboards, so I asked Canterbury Archaeological Trust if they would be interested in investigating.

"We managed to find the original Roman remains – complete with the underfloor heating system. Now it is all on show in our basement, which stocks history books."

“There is an earlier wall and the tiles of the hypocaust, as the Romans called their heating system. Behind the remains there is a large picture of what Canterbury would have looked like under the Roman Empire, with the city dominated by a massive amphitheatre which, it is thought, was used to stage both dramatic productions and gladiatorial contests.

"Waterstones didn't know about it – in fact the first time they became really aware was when they tried to process the slip for £1,000 to cover the work which I had submitted. Now they are fine with it – as it has put the shop on the tourist trail."

Another Canterbury story

featured in the book tells of a little-known part of the cathedral.

"There's a chapel in the grounds which holds a service in French once a month," said Mr Latham. "They were originally for the city's Huguenot population."

"But my personal favourite is the story of the phantom hitchhiker of Blue Bell Hill, who vanishes."

Latham wrote his book because everyone loves a good mystery.

"Whether someone is a road-sweeper or a university professor, they can debate issues from popular culture and history," he said.

"For instance, did King Henry VIII insist that Deal Castle was built in the shape of a Tudor rose?"

However, Latham was not able to get information on all the unusual tales he set out to recount.

"There was something I heard about Bluewater," he said. "It's about the site being more than just a quarry. I heard rumours there was something unusual about why it existed at all, something about explosions and the military."

"Another of the stories I couldn't track down was the origin of the shingle spit – known as The Street – offshore from Whitstable. It doesn't seem to obey any of the usual rules that govern longshore drift."

■ **Kent's Strangest Tales** is published by Anova Books and available from Waterstones and online.



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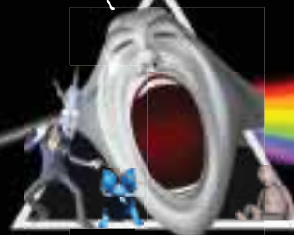
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FOOD & DRINK

Oxford graduates with honours in hard times

IN THIS era of austerity, going out for a meal is not a decision to be taken lightly. After all, £60-plus can go a long way and it can be hard to justify the spending just to give your taste buds a night on the tiles.

All of which provides an extra challenge to the newcomer. If you don't have a famous chef or a big brand name behind you, how do you convince the anxious, budget-conscious diner to choose you?

Whitstable is no stranger to new restaurants. Over the past 10 years it has been transformed and now offers a positive smorgasbord of options.

So trying to muscle in on the scene is no easy task. Especially when you plonk your feet into the shoes of perhaps one of the town's foremost eateries – Salt Marsh.

Before its recent move to form part of The Duke of Cumberland pub right at the heart of the town, Salt Marsh occupied modest premises midway down Whitstable's main Oxford Street thoroughfare.

From there it developed an enviable reputation, with cosy dining, no menus and not even a price-list to distract the hungry visitor. You rather bought into the experience. And since its move to bigger premises, that special atmosphere has been diluted.

Which means there was considerable interest when The Oxford set up shop in its old premises.

The interior is a little cleaner, a little sharper, than its predecessor. The tables are still big wooden affairs with a hotch-potch of chairs, but there is not quite the controlled chaos of Salt Marsh and there's no uncertainty, either. Prices are clear, menus in abundance.

The air of mystery may have left it, but The Oxford has managed to turn a small restaurant into a different beast, albeit sharing the same wardrobe.

But the warm atmosphere and encouraging hubbub of voices that greets you on a cold Saturday night will stand for little if the food is a let-down.

Fortunately, the food is anything but. It promises to be that rarest of beasts – a modern British restaurant, and one that doesn't feel the obligation to serve up fancy fish and chips just to satisfy the seaside setting.

Juicy, tender scallops on a citrus salad with a pomegranate dressing (£6.90) was a divine way to kick off a meal, the test of making a scallop melt in the mouth and bring a taste of the sea, rather than like a piece of rubber, well navigated.

RESTAURANT REVIEW



A pear and dulcelatte tower with port and walnuts (£5.50), meanwhile, was both unusual and tasty.

Fillet steak with dauphinoise potatoes was equally as compelling (£18.50). The hunk of meat was cooked beautifully and full of flavour, offset with a delicious beetroot cream.

The pan-fried lemon sole (£15) packed a citrus punch – perilously close to overpowering but managing to flavour the fish with a lemon zing rather than dominate.

All was served up by friendly and efficient staff and rounded off with a chocolate brownie.

The total bill, including a bottle of wine, came to a smudge over £68, which was not only good value in these difficult times but also gave a sense of The Oxford trying very hard to impress, as you would expect any fresh business to do.

All the dishes were presented with a flourish – there was an artistic flair – while the size of the portions managed to avoid being either too small and pretentious or too large and intimidating.

If it keeps up this level of effort and can lure diners away from the many restaurants closer to the seafront, The Oxford should flourish. It certainly deserves to.

Chris Thomson

■ The Oxford, 27a Oxford Street, Whitstable CT5 1DB
Telephone: 01227 265717

Hot or not... a new look is coming

A MEXICAN restaurant in Thanet is being refurbished to "create an exciting new dining experience".

UK chain Chiquito has announced its bar and restaurant at Westwood Cross retail park will close for nine days from Monday, February 20, for a makeover.

The restaurant offers inviting décor, with bold, bright colours and an eclectic mix of furniture to adhere to the Mexican theme.



■ Chiquito, Westwood Cross retail park, Thanet CT12 5GR
Telephone: 01843 579320
Web: www.chiquito.co.uk

The Chiquito group has more than 100,000 diners across the UK each week, choosing traditional dishes such as quesadillas, wraps and nachos, as well as the more familiar burgers, chicken and salads.

The 'hot or not' barometer offers guests a choice of spice level, and cocktails are served in the bar.

The Chiquito team at Thanet said: "The new-look eatery will give you a little pick-me-up on those chilly winter days."

Opening Times:
Please visit
www.dickensworld.co.uk

Chatham Maritime
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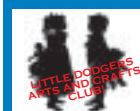
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DICKENS WORLD EVENTS



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Show only is included in the Dickens World
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*£5 extra for cream tea, scones &
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Next Show
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Friday 30th March 2012

Friday 27th April 2012

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Island 2D (PG) Digital**

**A Journey 2: The Mysterious
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**Alvin & the Chipmunks:
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Big Miracle (PG)

Chronicle (15)

Happy Feet 2 2D (U)

Jack & Jill (PG)

**Man on a Ledge (12A)
Digital**

**Star Wars Episode 1 - The
Phantom Menace 3D (U)**

The Grey (15)

The Muppets (U)

The Vow (12A)

The Women in Black (12A)

This Means War (12A)

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**ODEON KIDS
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(PG)**

**SENIOR SCREEN
Anonymous (12A)**

**OTHER CINEMA
My Week with Marilyn (15)**

For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go
to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421



FOOD & DRINK

À la carte: Six of the Best



The Red Lion Herne Hill

Why here...

Located in the picturesque village of Hernehill, there is a warm, cosy atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food. Choose a drink from a varied selection of wines, beers and real ales.

On the menu...

The à la carte menu has a wide selection for all tastes, with many meals costing less than £10. Food served daily Monday to Saturday midday-2.30pm and 6pm-9pm. Open Sunday midday-8pm.

How to book...

Crockham Lane, Herne Hill, Faversham ME13 9JR
phone: 01227 751207
web: www.theredlion.org

Superb variety that brooks no argument

WHEN it comes to providing choice of food styles, Kent plays

second fiddle to no one.

Our fair county is not named the Garden of England for no reason! Some of the finest locally-grown produce available in the UK can be found in this far south-eastern corner of the country. Our livestock, whether reared on the rich grasses of the North Downs or the far-reaching plains of Romney Marsh, is the envy of farmers across Europe.

Chicken, goose, pheasant, woodpigeon and duck are just some of the delicacies available at our extraordinary eateries across the county.

Kent's lengthy coastline supplies our many seaside restaurants with more shellfish and varied catches than you

can shake a rod at. And our fruit farms offering apples, pears, cherries, strawberries and plums are just the icing on the cake for those tasty, sweet desserts.

Chefs' access to all of these fine ingredients is a large slice of proof that Kent can offer the best and most varied à la carte menus in the UK.

If variety be the spice of life, then Kent is seriously hot for food-lovers. Having no limits to what is available to customers means that daily special dishes are commonplace here, allowing for expression of ideas from our culinary geniuses.

From curry houses to nouvelle cuisine, Kent can compete with the best because of the rich resources available.

This choice allows Kent chefs to create the finest dishes for their menus, in turn allowing customers to salivate over the most glorious à la carte treats.



Gurkha Palace Folkestone

Why here...

Try an authentic taste of Nepal with regional cuisines. The food of this beautiful country is as diverse as the landscape, so it's no surprise to learn that Gurkha Palace's menu is vast.

On the menu...

Excellent food – nominated as best Nepalese restaurant in the country by The Good Food Guide. Highly commended by Channel Chamber and best customer-service award.

How to book...

97 Enbrook Valley, Golden Valley shopping centre, Folkestone CT20 3NE
Phone: 01303 251100



London Beach Ashford

Why here...

London Beach offers one of the best à la carte menus in the Garden of England. The menu changes on a regular basis to coincide with the seasons and produce available. The team prides itself on only serving Kentish produce in its dishes.

The sophisticated restaurant has a relaxed ambience with beautiful panoramic views across the open countryside

of the stunning Weald of Kent.

On the menu...

Local game terrine, with home-made chutney and toasted pistachio nuts followed by pan-roasted venison steak with puy lentils, fondant potato, braised red cabbage and a mustard jus. Steamed syrup sponge pudding with vanilla crème anglaise.

How to book...

London Beach Country Hotel and Spa, Ashford Road, Tenterden TN30 6HX
phone: 01580 766279

First and Last Herne Common

Why here...

A great service from friendly staff is the norm; this pub offers a fantastic choice of food, real ales and wines. The function room offers a great party and event venue, but any visit is a special one.

On the menu...

Traditional food served at lunchtime, including sandwiches and baguettes. An evening à la carte menu offers dishes such as roasted duck breast with peppercorn sauce and fresh vegetables.

How to book...

The First and Last, Herne Common, Herne Bay CT6 7JU
01227 364465



World's Wonder Warehorne

Why here...

The World's Wonder sits in a beautiful area of countryside and offers a true rural eating experience. The pub is just a short walk from Romney Marsh, sitting between Hamstreet and Tenterden.

It has a more modern-looking façade these days, but hiding behind it is a history that reaches back more than a century.

The Valentine's night special

– three courses for two people – costs just £39.95.

On the menu...

The food is both cooked on the premises and sourced locally, with free-range meat and poultry all supplied by a local farmer. All dishes are home-made, including the famous steak-and-kidney pie and rabbit-and-bacon pie. Vegetarian options are available.

How to book...

Bookings taken through the website, www.worldswonder.co.uk; alternatively, you can phone 01233 732431



The Acorn Birchington

Why here...

The Acorn Inn is a friendly, family-run pub in the heart of the seaside village of Birchington-on-Sea. Your hosts Peter and Cath offer a warm welcome to a pub which has existed since 1748.

On the menu...

There is an excellent selection available from fish dishes to magnificently-cooked meat options on the à la carte menu, with prices ranging from £4.95 to £18.95. There is something for everyone.

How to book...

Acorn Inn
6 Park Lane, Birchington CT7 0AW
phone: 01843 841196

KENT ATTRACTIONS

Can you find buried booty? Treasure hunt

Penshurst Place, Tonbridge
Sat, Feb 11, to Sun, Feb, 19
01892 870307
www.penshurstplace.com

A BIG treasure hunt begins at Penshurst Place and Gardens this school half-term. Every day during the holiday it will be 'Ahoy me hearties!' for families as they step into the beautiful grounds for a children's treasure hunt at the top-notch adventure playground.

There will be clues to be solved and buried treasure to be found, so whether ye be wench or knave get on board before the scallywags plunder all your loot!

Normal garden admission prices apply, with the 2012 prices held over from last year.



The gardens and adventure playground will be open from 10.30am each day.

Penshurst House will be open at weekends only until Sunday, April 1.

Jazz sax triumvirate will warm the tone Alan Barnes and pals

RAFA Club, Dock Road, Chatham
Friday, February 17, 8.30pm
Tickets £10
01634 365352

THE new season of jazz gigs at the RAFA Club is just the antidote to all those long winter blues. It starts with a multi-saxophone storming session from three of the best saxophonists on the UK scene. Alan Barnes has become one of the most popular of the younger generation of British players headlining clubs, concerts and festivals all over the world.

He has won many prestigious jazz awards for his musicianship on the alto, tenor and baritone saxes and he now runs his own successful Woodville record company.

The irrepressible Tracey Mendham also plays on the day, notable for her similar style to past masters Dexter Gordon and Sonny Rollins. Mick Foster makes up the triumvirate; he is widely known for his musicianship and improvising skills on the baritone sax.



Pirates or princesses? The adventure begins

Hop Farm, Paddock Wood
Saturday, February 11, to Sunday, February 19
01622 870804; www.thehopfarm.co.uk

THE Hop Farm Family Park starts the half-term holiday with Pirates And Princesses Week. Youngsters can strap themselves in for a swashbuckling adventure or a princess pampering during this week of fun-filled activities, just perfect for under-11s.

All budding Jack Sparrows or promising Snow Whites can dress up and visit the attraction. The pirates and princesses can pit their wits against each other in a showdown of activities to decide once and for all the ultimate winner. Events include the giant jumping pillows, the children's driving school, indoor and outdoor play areas, animal farm and the magic factory... along with so much more.

Go kart-crazy this half-term Turn up'n'drive

Buckmore Park, Chatham
Monday to Sunday, 9am-6pm
01634 201562
www.buckmore4kids.co.uk

FOR fun that's fast and furious, you can't beat karting. To experience the thrill of real outdoor karting, head for Chatham's award-winning Buckmore Park with its 1,000-

metre international outdoor kart circuit, just off junction 3 of the M2. British world champions Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button both learnt their trade at the circuit, which celebrates its 50th anniversary next year. The floodlit venue is organising Turn Up'n'Drive sessions for youngsters aged four to 16 on selected dates including during the half-term week.

The kids' karting parties offer either 30-minute or one-hour sessions available for up to 12 drivers and can incorporate a celebration meal.



Day Trips

February

		ADULT	CHILD
Wed 15	Disneyland Paris (half term)	74.00	20.00
Thurs 16	Ostend	27.50	20.00
Sat 18	London Day Out or London Museum	18.50	15.50
Sun 19	Lakeside or Westfield Stratford Shopping Centre	17.00	14.00
Tues 21	Dobbies	9.50	9.50
Sat 25	De Panne	22.50	19.00
Mon 27	Olympic London Explorer	37.00	33.00

March

Mon 5	Afternoon Cite Europe	16.00	12.50
Thurs 8	Boulogne	26.50	19.00
Fri 9	Tunbridge Wells	14.00	9.50
Tues 13	Loose Women	19.50	n/a
Thurs 15	Brick Lane Music Hall - St Patrick's Show	37.00	n/a
Fri 16	Stitch & Craft Show - Olympia	26.00	18.50
Sat 17	Disneyland Paris by Ferry	74.00	69.00
Sun 18	Windsor Cruise & Cream Tea	32.00	28.00
Tues 20	Mystery Day Out	20.00	16.00
Fri 23	Ideal Home Exhibition	29.00	11.00
Sat 24	Wisley Gardens in Spring	24.50	19.00
Sun 25	Bruges	35.50	29.00
Wed 28	Ideal Home Exhibition	29.00	11.00
Sat 31	De Panne	22.50	19.00

Short Breaks

Fri 6 Apr	3 nights HB	Floriade 2012	£269
Fri 22 Jun	3 nights HB	Charming Cotswolds	£232
Mon 9 Jul	4 nights HB	Floriade 2012	£345
Sat 4 Aug	1 night HB	Alton Towers	£125
Fri 17 Aug	1 night B&B	Brussels Carpet of Flowers	£128
Fri 7 Sept	3 nights HB	Floriade 2012	£269
Fri 28 Sept	3 nights HB	Charms of Chester	£248
Mon 8 Oct	4 nights HB	The New Forest & Titanic Experience	£335
Sat 24 Nov	1 night HB	Thursford Christmas Spectacular	£129
Mon 26 Nov	4 nights HB	Bournemouth Turkey & Tinsel	£266



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STAGE & ARTS

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Banksy, Emin or even Hirst? New gallery

Palace Street, Canterbury
Open 9.30am-5pm
01227 766616
www.lilfordgallery.com

A NEW gallery dedicated to contemporary art has opened in Palace Street, Canterbury. Following success with his art boutique in Castle Street, David Lilford has opened this second gallery, which offers far more space for his pieces to be shown to their best effect. Lilford opened his Castle Street gallery in July 2000 stocking works ranging from just a few hundred pounds up to £50,000 or more. The new gallery will have pieces from Kent artists like Billy Childish as well as work from such names as Banksy, Tracey Emin and Damien Hirst. Lilford said: "People are welcome to drop in to see what's being displayed even if they are not in the market to buy. There aren't many places in the area where you can view some of the most famous artists in the UK."



The records of John Peel ... and more

**Gulbenkian Theatre,
Canterbury**
Tuesday, February 28
www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian

IN 2002, student John Osborne won a competition on John Peel's Radio One show, bagging a box of records that took eight years to listen to. He has since produced a show

that had a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Festival and has been described as an ode to radio and anyone who's ever sought solace in wireless. Entitled John Peel's Shed, the production is based on Osborne's acclaimed debut novel Radio Head: Up And Down The Dial Of British Radio. It tells the story of when the writer decided to listen to a different radio station every day, all day, for a month. The show features rare records previously owned by Peel. Phone 01227 769075 for tickets.

A friend of soul legends YolanDa's sax

The Orchard, Dartford
Sunday, March 4, 7.30pm
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

AWARD-WINNING saxophonist YolanDa Brown is heading to The Orchard Theatre in Dartford. The talented singer-songwriter has played to audiences

around the world, including the President of Russia and the Prime Minister of Jamaica. The musician is the Celebrity Ambassador for The Prince's Trust Charity and last year was invited to meet the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. She has toured with soul legends The Temptations, Errol Brown, Courtney Pine and Diana Krall, collaborated with artists such as Mica Paris and played as part of Jools Holland's Rhythm and Blues Orchestra. YolanDa won the MOBO award for Best Jazz in 2008, 2009 and 2010.



An Olympic-sized tale Glory team on stage

Medway and Swale village halls
Tuesday, February 28, to Sunday, March 25
01843 587950
www.chalkfoot.org.uk

AS we enter the year of the London Olympics, a new show is touring Kent in celebration. The play, entitled Running For Glory, explores the personalities and events leading up to the 1924 Paris Olympics, when a group of British athletes blazed their way to glory. Written by Philip Dart, the show offers a blend of theatre and sporting spectacle, re-creating the excitement of an Olympic race. It plays at Selling Hall, near Faversham, on Tuesday, February 28; Hartlip Hall, near Sittingbourne, on Saturday, March 3; Rodmersham Hall, near Sittingbourne, on Thursday, March 8; and Higham Memorial Hall, near Rochester, on Sunday, March 25.

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HOMES

Radar buildings go under the hammer at auction

AN unusual piece of Second World War military heritage has come on to the property market.

RAF Dunkirk was part of a chain of five radar stations built after 1937 to provide early warning for the Thames estuary and the south-eastern approaches to London.

All stations were in the Canterbury and Faversham area.

The outposts were vital in directing RAF fighters to formations of incoming German bombers, playing a key part in the Battle of Britain and the defeat of the Luftwaffe.

The property is on offer for £135,000 - £140,000 and will be auctioned by Clive Emson at the company's conference centre at the County Showground, Detling.

The sale starts at 11am on Monday, February 20.

Kevin Gilbert is part of the team working on the sale.

"It's part of a 26-acre site and includes a range of buildings, such as a transmitter block, technical block, several



pillboxes, the radar tower base itself and an underground transmitter room," he said.

"The whole area is currently in the possession of trustees and has been for some time. As the building is a Scheduled Monument, whoever bought it would need to be sympathetic when it came to any changes."

When the station was operational, it included weapons for defence. Now long gone, these included an anti-aircraft tower housing a 40mm Bofors gun, while further fire could be directed from a tripod-mounted

Lewis machine gun. Gas-proof doors once protected the interior, which also included an airlock – built when it was feared that poison gas might be dropped on targets in England by Nazi bombers.

Such was the position of the station that it could detect approaching aircraft even before they left the French coast.

"It is certainly an unusual property," said Mr Gilbert. "It could be turned into a museum – after all, it was strategically very important in the Second World War."

To read this and other property stories visit our property blog @ **homes24.co.uk** ...or smartphone users can scan this QR code



New homes are on the horizon

A NEW collection of family houses and apartments is available at Countryside Properties' Horizon development in Gravesend, providing easy access for commuters into London.

Horizon is close to the centre of Gravesend and commuting into central London takes just 23 minutes by train. There are also excellent road connections via the A2 and M25 to London, other Kent towns and the coast.

The Homes and Communities Agency's FirstBuy, an equity loan scheme to help first-time buyers get on the property ladder, is

available on all the new homes at Horizon.

This means eligible first-time buyers can purchase 100 per cent of their new property for 80 per cent of the purchase price and they need a deposit of just 5 per cent with a 75 per cent mortgage.

Houses have been priced at affordable levels for the development. FirstBuy prices at Horizon One start at just £79,960 for a one-bedroom apartment, while house prices start at £128,400 for a house with two bedrooms and £140,000 for three bedrooms.



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 STROOD, ROCHESTER High Yielding Investment Guide: £175-190,000	 NORTHFLEET, GRAVESEND Former Place of Worship Guide: £70-90,000	 GRAVSEND Three Flats for Investment Guide: £165-175,000	 CHATHAM House for Improvement Guide: £190-155,000	 CHATHAM Bungalow for Improvement Guide: £115-125,000
 TUNBRIDGE WELLS Semi for Improvement Guide: £150-130,000	 CHATHAM House for Refurbishment Guide: £75-90,000	 GILLINGHAM Semi for Improvement Guide: £85-90,000	 GILLINGHAM Gateway Lodge for Improvement Guide: £160-180,000	 RAINHAM Land for 3 Houses Guide: £180-190,000
 STROOD House for Improvement Guide: £95-100,000	 WROTHAM HEATH Workshop for Refurb/Develop Guide: £40-45,000	 TUNBRIDGE WELLS Residential Investment Guide: £100,000 Plus	 GRAVSEND Car Sales Premises Guide: £125-130,000	 SITTINGBOURNE Substantial Office with Flat Guide: £90-60,000
 DUTTON, MAIDSTONE Bungalow for Improvement Guide: £85-195,000	 ARBURY WOOD Land for 4 Houses £275-295,000	 ALLHALLOWS, ROCHESTER Pair of Semis Guide: £120-130,000 Each	 ELTHAM, SE9 Semi for Improvement Guide: £190-200,000	 GILLINGHAM House for Refurbishment Guide: £65-70,000
 ALLHALLOWS, ROCHESTER Terrace of Five Houses for Investment - Individual Lots Guide: £100-110,000 Each	 LINTON, MAIDSTONE One Acre Graveling Land Guide: £10-15,000	 SITTINGBOURNE Development Site in prominent position Guide: £650-700,000		
 WILLING Site for 10 Flats Guide: £150-175,000	 GRAVSEND Residential Investment Guide: £110-140,000	 DARTFORD Land with Planning Guide: £60-70,000	 GILLINGHAM Development Site for 2 Flats Guide: £35-45,000	 SITTINGBOURNE Commercial/Residential Guide: £250-270,000

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STURRY
Freehold Investment
Guide: £90-95,000



DEAL
End Terrace for Improvement
Guide: £90-95,000



RAMSGATE
Premises with Potential
Guide: £25-30,000



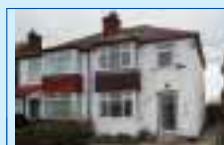
DOVER
Listed House, Cottage, Remains
Guide: £200-210,000



ORPINGTON
Shop, Upper Parts & Yard
Guide: £150-160,000



FOLKESTONE
Planning for Detached House
Guide: £35-45,000



WOODNESBOROUGH
Semi for Improvement
Guide: £90-100,000



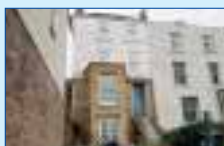
DEAL
Planning for 4 Dwellings
Guide: £150-160,000



ASHFORD
Two Bed Semi for Improvement
Guide: £95-105,000



FOLKESTONE (THE BAYLE)
House & Plot with Planning
Guide: £140-150,000



SANDGATE
House for Refurb. Sea Views
Guide: £135-145,000



DEAL
House for Renovation
Guide: £70-75,000



DOVER
Potential for Sub-division
Guide: £58-62,000



ENBROOK VALLEY, SANDGATE
Commercial Investment in
neighbourhood parade
Guide: £70-75,000



FAVERSHAM
Commercial Investment
£80-90,000



FAVERSHAM
Town Commercial Investment
Guide: £140-150,000



IWADE
Land with Planning
Guide: £20-30,000



FOLKESTONE
Flat for Investment
Guide: £38-42,000



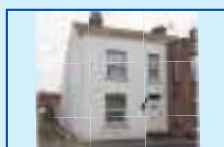
SHEERNESS
Development Scheme
for Completion
Guide: £230-250,000



RAMSGATE
Three Storey Town House
Guide: £75-80,000



CANTERBURY
Block of 5 Flats for Investment
Guide: £400-450,000



GARLINGE
Three Bedroom House
Guide: £85-90,000



HYTHE
Cottage for Improvement
Guide: £90-95,000



RAMSGATE
House arranged as Two Flats
Guide: £110-115,000



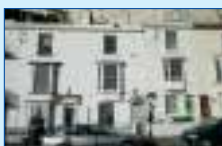
BROADSTAIRS
Commercial Investment
Guide: £475-500,000



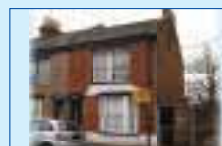
ST LAWRENCE, RAMSGATE
Former Takeaway / Upper Parts
Guide: £85-95,000



RAMSGATE
House in Good Condition
Guide: £230-250,000



DOVER
For Total Renovation
Guide: £45-48,000



HERNE BAY
Three Bedroom House
Guide: £110-120,000



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Maisonette in Good Location
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Crowborough Guide Price £375,000

Site with planning for a pair of 2/3 bed semi-detached houses and a terrace of 4 x 3 bed houses to the rear with parking.



Wingham Guide Price £500,000

3.5 acre plot with planning for replacement dwelling - further 7 acres of land available.



Brabourne Lees Guide Price £250,000

Site with planning for a pair of semi-detached houses in this popular village near Ashford.



Rye Guide Price £450,000

Site currently in planning for 4 units plus the retention of the existing detached house requiring complete refurbishment.

WANTED Site with planning for 2 or 3 houses with grounds set in a rural location



Peacehaven Guide Price £1m

Site of approximately ¼ acres currently occupied by a substantial bungalow available subject to planning with sea views.



Lewes Guide Price £195,000

Single plot with planning for a stunning 2 bedroom detached house situated on the popular Nevill Estate with garden and parking.



Tunbridge Wells £65,000

Site with planning permission for an attached 2 bedroom house with garden and parking.



Gillingham Guide Price £250,000

Site with planning pending for the erection of 5 townhouses arranged as a pair of semi-detached and a terrace of three.

WANTED Significant single plot in the Tunbridge Wells area with good acreage – no price limit



Greatstone £150,000

Plot with direct beach access and planning for a 2/3 bedroom house – fantastic opportunity.



Berwick Guide Price £1m

17 acre plot with planning for 8,848 sq ft replacement dwelling in unrivalled location and outstanding views.



Lamberhurst Quarter Guide Price £225,000

Substantial barn in 0.25 acres with planning for conversion to a dwelling of approx. 3,500 sq ft.

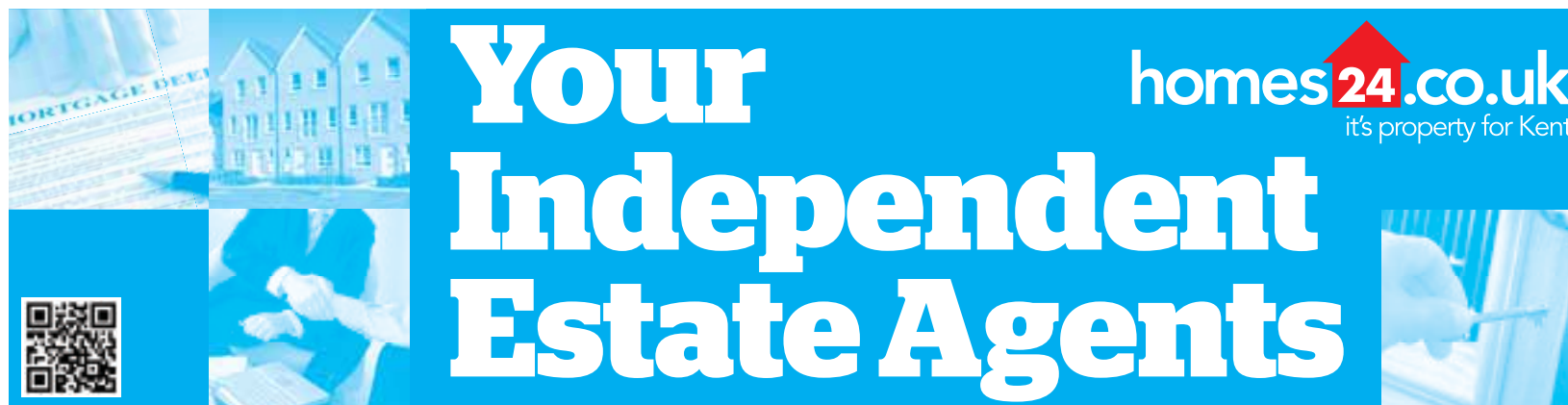


Chatham Guide Price £450,000

Site in Chatham with planning for 22 x 2 bed apartments over four blocks in just over 1 acre of grounds.




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WHITE House is an attractive four-bedroom family home set in pretty gardens with lovely sea views, enjoying an elevated position in the popular area of Cliff Road, Hythe.

It is a detached property believed to have been built around 1928, with colour-washed elevations, under a tiled roof.

It is on the market with chartered surveyors Smith-Woolley & Perry for £425,000.

Sally Jinks, of Smith-Woolley & Perry, said: "The property has been extended in recent years to create a utility room, breakfast room and a fourth bedroom – with the potential to create a shower room on the first floor – subject to the necessary planning consents."

The accommodation comprises a covered verandah, entrance vestibule and reception hall; sitting room with an attractive and contemporary living-flame gas-fire; dining room with cupboard and shelves in the chimney recess and an alcove with fitted book-shelves. A kitchen, breakfast room, utility room and convenient cloakroom complete the ground floor.

On the first floor is a landing with a built-in linen cupboard and a master bedroom with built-in wardrobe cupboards and a centre chest-of-drawers unit. There are three further bedrooms and a family bathroom (with a bath and shower cubicle) and separate WC.

There is a double garage with an electric up-and-over door and a door to the garden.

There is a delightful garden both to the front and rear of the property. Starting from the bottom level, shallow steps lead through the garden and up to a lovely patio area to the front of the house overlooking the garden towards the sea.

The lawn sweeps either side of the pathway, with attractive borders providing mature planting and foliage. A neat private hedge creates a tiny border to the garden.

A path leads around to the rear garden and a further patio next to the house, and a raised lawn accessed via a few steps, with a further incline accessing the very top of the garden, which allows a pleasant glimpse of the sea.

■ **Contact: Smith-Woolley & Perry**
Telephone: 01 303 226622
Email: sales@swanp.co.uk
Website: www.swanp.co.uk



Property is simply a bit of all White



Rare opportunity to enjoy village life with 'green' views



AN EXTENDED four-bedroom detached family home with excellent 'green' credentials in the sought-after village of Sheldwich, near Faversham, has come on to the market with Saddlers Residential.

The property at 4 Hunters Way is believed to have been built during the 1960s, with a later extension to provide true family-sized accommodation including an entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom, sitting room with wood-burning stove, dining room and contemporary fitted kitchen breakfast room, study, master bedroom with balcony overlooking the rear garden and en-suite bathroom, three further bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property benefits from landscaped and productive front and rear gardens totalling one-

fifth of an acre, along with off-road parking and a single garage to the side.

The present owners have taken care to integrate energy-saving facilities within the property, including a rainwater-harvesting system, along with provision for the addition of solar panels to assist with the hot-water system.

Other notable features include sealed-unit double-glazing to most windows and gas-fired central heating.

Sheldwich, a delightfully pretty village with a respected primary school, is some three miles south of Faversham and 10 miles north of Ashford, both with an excellent array of shopping and leisure facilities and mainline railway stations providing fast access to London and the coast.

Fast road networks are easily accessible by car, with junction 6 of the M2 just 1.5 miles to the north, providing access to the capital and north Kent coast.

The village is in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Properties rarely become available for purchase in this village and it is strongly urged that interested applicants make arrangements to view to avoid disappointment.

■ **Contact: Saddlers**
Reed House, 1-3 Old Ashford Road, Charing, Kent TN27 0JG
Telephone: 01233 713127
Fax: 01233 713594
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Seabrook £499,000

- Substantial 5 bedroom detached house
- Flexible accommodation
- Sea views



Folkestone From £235,000

- 2 apartments in prestigious block on the Leas
- 2 bedrooms, lift access and balcony
- Outstanding views across the Channel



Folkestone £189,500

- Attractive 2 bedroom ground floor flat
- 2 bathrooms
- Use of communal and private gardens



Swingfield £359,500

- 4 bedroom detached house
- Substantial family home
- Large garden with views over farmland



Hythe £425,000

- Attractive 4 bed family house
- Pretty gardens with lovely sea views
- Elevated position in popular Cliff Road area, Hythe.



Folkestone £645,000

- 6 bedroom detached house
- Popular West End location close to the Leas
- Large established garden

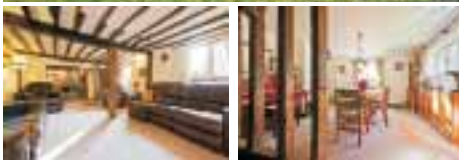


Swingfield £349,500

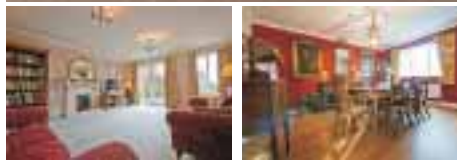
- Detached 4 bedroom house
- Well presented
- Rural setting with farmland views

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Tel: 01233 713127**www.saddlersresidential.co.uk****Email: property@saddlersresidential.co.uk****Charing Heath****£750,000**

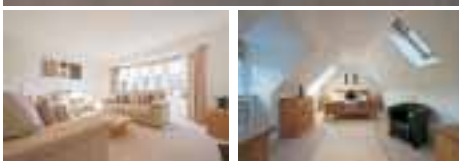
Grade II listed five bedroom detached thatched cottage with three reception rooms, long driveway and double garage set in 0.686 acre of landscaped gardens in popular semi rural hamlet.

**Charing****£495,000**

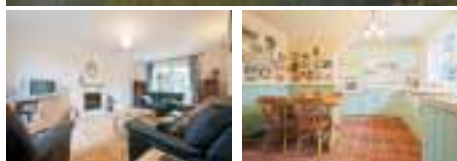
Sizeable five bedroom, three bathroom detached family home with four reception rooms, fully fitted kitchen and utility room, garden, large driveway and double garage.

**Sheldwich****£475,000**

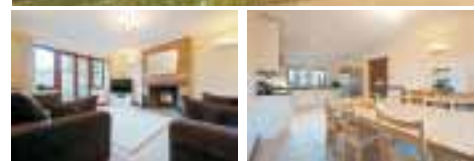
Extended four bedroom, two bathroom detached family home with large sitting room, dining room, study, kitchen breakfast room, downstairs cloakroom and good sized gardens.

**Challock****£465,000**

Substantial five bedroom detached family home with three bathrooms, guest bedroom suite, master bedroom with en-suite and dressing room, contemporary kitchen breakfast room, utility room and double garage, set in gated courtyard.

**Charing****£460,000**

Four bedroom detached house with double garage and gardens of 0.769 acre situated on the outskirts of the semi rural village of Charing, a convenient position for commuters.

**Challock****£409,995**

Executive four bedroom detached house with sitting room, study, downstairs cloakroom, contemporary fitted kitchen/breakfast room, well tended gardens and double garage.

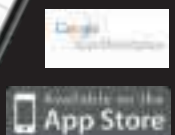
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SALTWOOD

REDUCED



Unique det, 2 receps, 3 beds, (4th could be reinstated), 2 baths, double garage with self contained flatlet/studio over, lovely outlook to rear with sea glimpses.
£550,000 Freehold

HYTHE/SALTWOOD



Spacious family house situated in popular road, 2 receps, 5 beds, 2 bath/showers, large rear garden with decking, double garage.
£530,000 Freehold

HYTHE/SALTWOOD

JUST AVAILABLE



Attractive 1930's det house, within short distance of village green, 2 receps, 4 beds, 4 bath/showers, garage, drive, delightful established gardens.
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HYTHE



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First **GEAR**
MOTERING NEWS

- The popular little Fiat 500 goes large
- People-carriers are given a whole new look
- Smart car's styling just got even smarter



Newly-revealed Hybrid4 is a definite world first

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

BMW dealers across Kent are using this weekend to launch the latest generation of the German premium marque's best-known model, – the BMW 3-Series saloon.

Not surprisingly, Generation Six has already gained a lot of attention according to Sam Pitchford, sales manager for Broad Oak BMW at Ashford: "There's been a huge pre-launch interest from private and fleet customers – a new 3-Series is recognised as one of our biggest events and the press has done a good job in whipping things up."

He added: "The key model, of course, is the 320d diesel (from £28,080) which has been the best seller for several generations now – we have a 320d demonstrator of the new car here – but the pick for me in terms of the classic BMW driving experience would be the 328 four-cylinder turbo petrol model (from £29,060) – it's smooth, quick and lovely to drive."

Sadly, we weren't able to try the latter, but Broad Oak's 320d diesel was made available just hours before the launch event and was impressive in its own right, proving BMW has taken on board a number of quibbles about the previous car.

Most notable is the suspension work done to deliver a smoother ride to compete with the 3-Series' closest true rival, the similarly rear-wheel drive Mercedes-Benz C-Class, but BMW has also improved rear legroom and cabin space overall.

Best of all though, the designers have smoothed away the last vestiges of the controversial Chris Bangle design era and created a car that is stylish yet easy on the eye, with a particularly smart front end that makes the car look lower and wider.

Even the 'workhorse' 320d sampled here – surely destined to be the biggest seller once again – demonstrates how levels of driver pleasure have been taken higher, with a smooth and free-revving diesel, slick six-speed gearbox and good steering feedback.

But BMW has also cleverly embraced economy and the environment within its 'Ultimate Driving Machine' ethos, so the new car features the latest of the marque's Efficient Dynamics technology to deliver both urban economy and smooth motorway efficiency so cruising in sixth at 70mph shows the onboard computer reading a tad under 80mpg – not bad for a car that seats five in comfort.

With that kind of economy on tap for company user choosers as well as discerning private buyers, there can't be any doubt the latest 3-Series will retain the model's perennial Top 10 slot in the UK's best-selling car chart.

The model's history dates from 1975, but it was the 1982 E30 model that UK buyers really took to, especially when spin-offs included a desirable convertible and Touring (estate) – we await news of generation six versions of these and the two-door coupe.



FIRST DRIVE – BMW 3-Series

- Price: £24,880-37,025
- Driving appeal: ★★★★★
- Image: ★★★★★
- Space: ★★★★★
- Value: ★★★★★
- Running costs: ★★★★★
- Reliability: ★★★★★
- How green?: ★★★★★
- Best rival: Mercedes-Benz C-Class

Launch weekend for BMW's best-known car, the 3-Series



STYLISH: The latest incarnation of the BMW 3-Series is easy on the eye, while also offering excellent mpg

DON'T LIKE

THERE'S nothing to dislike. This marks a return to classic 3-Series style and impact while pushing the green envelope still further

NOT SURE

IT will get an easy ride this time, though, from vastly-improved Audi A4, Mercedes-Benz C-Class and Volvo S60 rivals

REALLY LIKE

THE flattened BMW grille, which allows a much more dynamic front end and sets the tone for a smart overall shape

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRi hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO2 emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper; 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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Car shown for illustration purposes only.

MOTORING

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'Upspec' Corsa makes case to be a downsizer's target

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT'S hard to believe that the current Vauxhall Corsa has been around since 2006.

But it was ahead of the pack then, and an eye-catching youth-orientated marketing campaign added to the impression that the car was a trend-setter rather than a follower.

Whether it's still on trend now is debatable as it passes into the later phase of its production life, but it remains a perennial UK best seller.

Of course, part of this is due to Vauxhall's clout in the company car and fleet sector; go down to your local car hire chain and a Corsa will be one of the best options early on the menu.

But one thing the Corsa also does well, is offering bigger car sophistication and style for private buyers, exemplified by the five-door 1.2 petrol model tested here in upmarket SXi trim.

The cabin of the Corsa is a masterpiece of spatial design, with the five-door doing a particularly good job of aping many cars from the family hatchback class above. It will even seat five without too much of a squeeze on the middle passenger in the back, while head and legroom is good for this class.

It might look drab, but the interior is also of good robust quality, well arranged, and practical, with lots of stowage in the front – though not so good in the back.

The boot is large and ours came with the optional £60 double-deck boot – a removable false floor accesses hidden depths or, if needed, a lidded space for ever-present gear needed on your journeys. The rear seats fold easily to create a useful cubic cargo area as well.

The Corsa delivers on the road with a nicely balanced blend of comfort and sharp handling. Keen drivers won't be disappointed by the car and the sporty models are a delight, including the flagship VXR hot hatch.

Power choice is a bit of a mixed bag though. I

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi START/STOP: PRICE £14,210

FACT FILE



Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
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A GOOD OFFERING:

Even the diesel version of Corsa's latest incarnation is worth a look

would normally argue against paying extra to have a diesel supermini unless you plan to rack up lots of miles and don't mind the inevitable loss of sharpness in handling due to the lump's extra weight.

It makes sense in the Corsa though – particularly in the case of the green Ecolife models – with previous tests showing the diesel powertrains to be among the best at this level.

However, if you are going for petrol then the four-cylinder 85PS (83bhp) 1.2-litre of the test car makes a powerful case, being more in the real world than the asthmatic and rather uneven three-cylinder 65PS 1.0-litre, and almost as lively as the 100PS 1.4 unit.

Ours also had a green package on it in the form of an eco button that helps you save fuel and nags your gear changes.

It also comes with a start/stop feature that kills the engine and automatically re-starts it in city driving or traffic jams to save on fuel and emissions.

With care, this should then allow you to return an average mpg in the 50s, although it is sometimes hard to resist switching off eco mode and giving the little car its head in cut and thrust traffic or on a challenging road, the SXi model also benefits from slightly tauter suspension.

Add in a few of the SXi standard features, such as smart and well-contoured front seats, leather clad steering wheel with audio controls, cruise control, aux/USB MP3 player socket, climate control and smart alloys, and you can understand why an up-spec Corsa might be on someone's target list when downsizing from a bigger class of car.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Bigger Fiat 500 at large

FIAT has unveiled a big brother for the 500, hoping to benefit from association with the Italian cult car.

The 500L – the L simply stands for Large – is due out late this year and underlines Fiat's ongoing strategy for brand extensions based on its big-selling star – a hot Abarth 500 and trendy 500C convertible are already on sale.



Extra clout for people-carriers

TWO of the most versatile models in the Citroën range have been upgraded by the French marque.

The revised Berlingo Multispace and Dispatch Combi people carriers go on sale from April 2. Both have new look front ends and interiors.

Both also follow a familiar pattern of being flexible and cost-effective spin-offs from successful and durable van models.



Smartening up the Smart

FOR many the original city car, the Smart ForTwo has been extensively revised for the 2012 model year.

Described as "more dynamic", the styling features a larger radiator grille with integrated logo, LED daytime driving lights, muscular side skirts and other tweaks to give the little two-seater a more butch look.

The new-look car hits UK showrooms in April.

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VAUXHALL

World first shows pride at Lion brand

1ST DRIVE

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS Peugeot spokesman Andrew Didlick said when introducing the French marque's new 3008 Hybrid4 to journalists – it's not often one gets to reveal a world first.

But that's what this clever new vehicle is: the first ever hybrid car to harness a diesel rather than a petrol engine in tandem with an electric motor, thereby bringing the diesel benefits of better fuel economy and low-down pulling power.

Behind this obvious attribute, though, is the ingenious way Peugeot has created a platform whereby this same system could be adapted quickly to fit any number of existing or future Peugeot powertrains.

This has been achieved by producing a stand alone electric power module – Peugeot has considerable experience in the field from producing the electric 106 supermini variant in the 90s – for the rear of the car.

This can link to whatever internal combustion partner Peugeot chooses to site at the front of the vehicle; we can expect to see a classy but green version of its bigger 508 series soon and there are other options in the pipeline.

For now, we have a version of the highly successful 3008 crossover that is even more versatile than the donor, something of a Swiss Army Knife of cars that can be: all-electric; low emis-



BIG IMPACT: The 3008 Hybrid4 – the pride of Peugeot. Above, this is where you select the various tools on the 'Swiss Army Knife Car'

way, with its clever £300 electronic Grip Control option on the front wheels, but the electric motor transmission to the rear wheels of the Hybrid4 make all-wheel drive a reality and effective enough for most people who buy a 4x4, unless serious cross-country yomping is called for.

At the other extreme, the car can be used in purely electric mode at modest speeds and local runs, with the batteries being recharged slightly every time you lift off the throttle – you soon get used to seldom needing the brakes, which should pay dividends on maintenance too.

I was also unable to discern any impact upon the standard 3008's versatility, due to the batteries and electric power at the back so, like the Swiss Army Knife, the Hybrid4 truly really is a tool for all occasions and seasons.

sion sub 100g/km CO₂; four-wheel drive; sporty – 200bhp on tap; roomy – taking five adults plus luggage; and economical – averaging 70mpg.

As you might expect, such things do not come cheap: prices start at £26,995 for the ultra-eco, road tax and congestion charge exempt version – conventional 3008 diesels start at £18,995.

On the other hand, Peugeot is pitching the 3008 as an executive model so the car has been visually upgraded against 'standard' 3008s and even the cheapest version comes laden with kit, and there are potentially huge savings on running costs and tax.

Peugeot figures comparing the car to its nearest conventional 3008 equivalent suggest a company car user chooser could save £7,558 over three years, with a further £1,500 saving in London Congestion Charge fees if they commute to the capital.

And the Hybrid4 has more sporting character than any previous hybrid, with perhaps the exception of the rather more expensive and bigger Lexus 450h petrol hybrid (from £44,500).

One of the most intriguing aspects is its ability to tackle quite difficult conditions. Peugeot already had this covered off with the 3008 any-

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116i 49.6 mpg 136hp

Official fuel economy figures for the new BMW 116i Sport 5-door: Extra Urban 58.9mpg (4.8 l/100km). Urban 39.2mpg (7.2 l/100km). Combined 49.6mpg (5.7 l/100km). CO₂ emissions 132g/km.

Offer available on selected BMW 1 Series 5-door models ordered between 1 January and 31 March 2012 and registered by 30 June 2012, subject to availability. Finance example is based on a BMW Select agreement for the model stated, a 116i Sport, with a contract mileage of 40,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 6p per mile. *On the road cash price is based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 3 year BMW Dealer Warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. ^Option to purchase fee and optional final payment payable at the end of the agreement if you decide to purchase the vehicle. Excess mileage charges and vehicle condition charges may be payable if you return the vehicle. Prices are correct at time of publication and are subject to change without notice. Retail customers only. Finance is subject to credit acceptance and available to over 18s in the UK only (excluding the Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Advertised finance is provided by BMW Financial Services (BMW FS). Whilst we have close links with BMW FS and commonly introduce customers to BMW FS, we do not work exclusively with BMW FS. **Figure based on fuel consumption on combined cycle. *Test drive subject to status and availability. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range.

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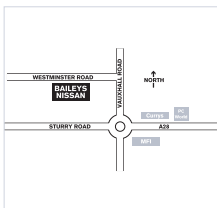
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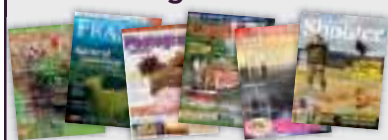
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Kent's Paralympic Countdown

Raising awareness is not on the agenda for captain Brown

By David Pritchard

david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

ONE of the expected consequences from London 2012 is a transformation in disability sports, which will receive unprecedented exposure during the Paralympics.

Organisers hope the Games will provide a watershed moment which will fundamentally alter the public's view of events which, if not completely ignored, are often misunderstood.

Britain is hugely successful, finishing second in the medals table at Beijing, and a gold rush is widely predicted again this year.

As captain of Britain's wheelchair rugby team, Steve Brown is well placed to pick up a medal in September, but for him the priority is about the battle to become a champion rather than any loftier ambitions of representing disability sport.

"I'm not interested in changing perceptions," he said. "I go past thousands of people on the street every day and I don't know anything about them. That doesn't mean that what they do isn't worth knowing, or isn't courageous or inspiring or exciting."

"As far as people knowing me or knowing wheelchair rugby, I do this because I want to and I'm proud of what I do. I like the excitement and the adrenalin and the competition. Before my injury I was a competitive, horrible, older brother and nothing's changed."

"I want to win whatever's being played. I race my brothers with lolly sticks down the river and if mine doesn't win I'll still make an excuse. That doesn't change because I've had this injury."

"I'm just fortunate wheelchair rugby's there for me to have a sport I can be competitive in on a level playing field. I owe an awful lot to the sport, on and off the court."

Paralysed from the chest down after falling

Pictures: PAUL JERREAT/MICHAELA GREENE



EYES ON THE PRIZE: Steve Brown is captain of the GB wheelchair rugby team for the Paralympics

STEVE BROWN

- **AGE:** 30
- **HOMETOWN:** Sittingbourne
- **EVENT:** Wheelchair rugby
- **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** Being named Great Britain wheelchair rugby captain last year
- **PARALYMPIC SELECTION CHANCES:** Probable

from a balcony in 2005, Brown has gone on to become a key member of the Britain squad.

Appointed captain last year, the 30-year-old from Sittingbourne led a team depleted by injury to silver at the European Championships last October.



The sport has captured the imagination and was the first Paralympic event to sell out, meaning 10,000 spectators will watch their games – a record for wheelchair rugby.

Brown is delighted with the squad's preparations to date and praised the spirit among the players, who will not all make the final cut.

He said: "I want Great Britain to win with me in the squad, it's the same for everyone, but there's no animosity. If I don't make it all I want is the best for the others and I know the feeling's mutual for the other players."

"To win a medal with your best friends, people you've been working with day-in day-out – the trust, respect and understanding you have to show – and knowing everyone's worked as hard as they can, would be so rewarding."

Picture: TIM STUBBINGS



DECIDER: Futsal was the first final played

Final countdown as Kent School Games begin 2012 party

THE finals in the third Kent School Games have begun and promise to be on a grander scale than before in Olympic year.

More than 30,000 children across the county will have taken part in 36 sports by the time it finishes in July, making it the largest of its kind in Europe.

The biennial games arose from the desire to capitalise on the Olympics coming to the capital and the success since its launch in 2008 has seen it become a model for similar schemes nationwide.

Kent County Council's Chris Hespe, who helped develop the Kent School Games from the outset, said: "The whole idea of the Kent School Games is a legacy of having the Olympics in London. We're going to be running it every two years and it's made a big impact already."

After regional heats last year the sports are down to the latter stages.

Futsal, a version of indoor football, was the first to be decided, with the finals held last week. Hayesbrook School in Tonbridge won the boys' under-12 event, while Dartford Grammar won the girls' under-12s. Walderslade Girls won the under-14 title.

CRICKET

Mahmood off to IPL season

AZHAR Mahmood will miss the start of the cricket season with Kent after the all-rounder was bought in the auction for the Indian Premier League.

The 36-year-old former Pakistan international went for US\$200,000, twice his base price, to Kings XI Punjab.

Mahmood thanked Kent and the England and Wales Cricket Board on Twitter for being "accommodating and co-operative" in allowing the lucrative deal to take place.

The IPL begins on April 4, the day before Kent start their LV= County Championship Division Two campaign.

Depending on results, Mahmood could be away for almost two months, with the IPL final held on May 27.

RUGBY UNION

Pain of losing Junior World Cup final burns bright for Ransom in back-to-back Grand Slam attempt

AS THE end to a successful England Under-20 career approaches Ben Ransom admits a defeat last summer is providing a source of inspiration during the Six Nations.

The former Tonbridge School pupil helped the side off to a terrific start last weekend, as Scotland were crushed 59-3 in Glasgow.

It put Ransom and the rest of the squad on their way to a second successive Grand Slam ahead of a trip to Italy on Friday night.

The full-back turns 20 next week so will not be eligible for the team next season. Despite the glory he enjoyed in the Six Nations 12 months ago, it is the 33-22 defeat to New Zealand at the Junior World Cup last June which stands out.

He said: "Winning the Grand Slam and then doing well in the Junior World Cup were great moments, but losing in the final spurs me on."

"Obviously last year our goal was to win the Grand Slam. It's a different team this

year and we'll just be taking it one game at a time."

After the end of his international under-20 career next month Ransom will turn his attention to developing in club rugby.

The former Kent player made his full debut for Saracens aged just 18 but has been used sparingly over the last year.

He is likely to finish the season playing in the Championship for Bedford Blues, who have signed him on a dual registration deal.

Ransom is looking forward to featuring for the promotion hopefuls, which should provide a useful stepping stone to establishing himself at Saracens.

He said: "Playing regularly is the priority to get some game time under my belt. First of all I have to do well at Bedford and then the aim is to get into the rotation for the Saracens first-team."

"Saracens is a great club to be at – it's hard work but the set-up is really good."



FULL-BACK: Ben Ransom

HOCKEY

Trophy silver for GB ladies

NATALIE Seymour and Abi Walker were unused substitutes as Great Britain's women lost in the Champions Trophy final to hosts Argentina.

Silvina D'Elia scored the only goal of the game after 29 minutes to claim the gold medal in Rosario last Sunday.

Despite ending in disappointment, the silver medal was the team's best ever finish at a world level event, which augurs well six months before the London Olympics.

Seymour and Walker, who play club hockey for Canterbury ladies, had played a role in helping Great Britain finish second in Pool B, with Seymour playing in the quarter-final victory against Korea.

Sport

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FOOTBALL

Hess looks for a big show as Gills set for screen test

By David Pritchard

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FOR the first time in more than five years a regular-season game at Priestfield will be screened live on television next week and Gillingham manager Andy Hessenthaler is hoping the extra attention brings out the best in his side.

The clash with Southend United on Monday night will be covered by Sky. It is the first time the Gills have had a game live on TV since the 2009 play-off final at Wembley and you have to go back to January 2007 for the last time that a normal league game was broadcast from Priestfield.

The home side beat Tranmere Rovers 2-0 in League One that night and a similar result would be as warmly welcomed on Monday as the £30,000 appearance fee. Despite a recent blip, Southend United will arrive as bona fide automatic promotion contenders, while an awful January has seen the Gills cut well adrift of the race for the top three.

Hessenthaler is hoping the spotlight will inspire his players to put the slump behind them.

"I played a lot of games on TV myself and it is exciting because you know the cameras are there and you can put a show on," he said.

"A lot of people sit and watch Monday Night Football. We'd like to put a good performance in to show people we are a decent side, even though we're having a little spell at the moment.

"The atmosphere should be buzzing and the players should be excited by it. Some find it difficult to play on TV, everyone's different, but I used to love it.

"Night games always seem to bring a better atmosphere as well. I think players tend to raise their game for those occasions, but I'm sure that will be the case for both teams."



Pictures: ADY KERRY

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: Gillingham will get a rare chance to play live on television this Monday

The presence of the cameras will not have a impact on everyone, however, with forward Gavin Tomlin remaining indifferent.

He said: "It doesn't make a difference to me. I'll still go out there with the same mentality – to try to win the game."

The club have also have announced their plans to compensate supporters who watched the defeat at Accrington Stanley last month.

Fans who attended the 4-3 loss can claim a



reduced fare on the club's official coach to one of the remaining away games this season, with the difference paid by Hessenthaler and the playing squad.

The idea was raised by the Priestfield boss immediately after the defeat, which saw the visitors fall 4-1 behind by half-time before staging a rally in the second half, although the offer stops some way short of a full refund, which was suggested at the time.

FOOTBALL

Calls for early warning when the frost bites

THE deep freeze last weekend has prompted a call from some non-league managers for a change to be made on how games are postponed.

Sub-zero temperatures froze pitches across the county, with just Phoenix's clash with Ashford United in the Kent Invicta League going ahead.

But while Gillingham were able to call off their meeting with Hereford United at Priestfield in League Two on Friday, under Football Association regulations the non-league clubs had to wait until Saturday for confirmation.

Ebbsfleet United manager Liam Daish fumed after their FA Trophy tie at York City was only scrapped at 12.30pm, but even clubs facing far shorter journeys are keen for a change.

Tonbridge Angels manager Tommy Warrilow wants to be given the freedom for calls to be made much earlier.

He said: "I'm just a little frustrated we don't



Picture: NICK DUNGAN

SNOW GAMES: Tonbridge Angels' Longmead ground during the long cold snap last winter

seem to learn from anything. If it's not going to get any better I would rather call the game off the day before.

"I just think it's unprofessional for non-league football – pro clubs call a game off a day early and they've got groundsmen, but we wait."

Managers say they would be able to use the extra time productively.

Simon Halsey, manager at Herne Bay, said: "I think everyone knew last Friday the games weren't going to be on, but we had to wait until the Saturday. I think it's definitely something which needs to be looked at.

"It would help everyone out. We would have

extra time to organise indoor training or send players to have a run-out with the reserves if their game is on."

But a change is not universally backed. Denise Richmond, chairman at the Kent League, does not believe the system needs looking at and pointed out that in extreme weather games could be postponed before the day of the game.

She said: "I don't see there's much of an issue. Phoenix got their game on, but VCD Athletic down the road were off, so you can't always tell.

"Games can also be called off earlier in exceptional circumstances, like last winter, when common sense usually prevails."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS

WITH FRED ATKINS

A question of class warfare

“THE most depressing thing I've ever read about football came in the otherwise compelling book Why England Lose, by Simon Kuper and Stefan Szymanski, a collaboration between the football correspondent of the Financial Times and an economist.

It contained a number of unconventional themes, from the reasons behind the national team's failures, through the mathematics of penalty shoot-outs to the wavering sanity of club directors and is a must-read for anyone thinking of running or even supporting a team.

There was, however, a passage that made the heart sink quicker than a DJ armed with a copy of Red, Red Wine at a wedding reception, concerning a former Oldham trainee who was ridiculed by his peers because he once came to training with a copy of the Daily Mail.

There is a school of thought that says if you've parted with cash for a newspaper that believes the EU causes global warming (I paraphrase) you deserve everything you get, but somewhat incredibly the derision the player faced was because his team mates thought he was trying to be intellectual.

According to their research, 85 per cent of England players at the previous three world cups were working class and the authors' theory is England's football culture scares away middle-class players, who instead opt for rugby or cricket.

Could this explain why Kent, a predominantly middle-class county, produces so few top-flight footballers?

Probably not. The playing pool in Kent includes stockbrokers and dockers, shift workers and successful businessmen.

Supporters also come from fairly mixed backgrounds, though one did tell me he thought an ex-Tonbridge player was amusing because: "Everywhere he played he'd get into arguments and start abusing his opponent in a really middle class way."

On the field it's admittedly rare to come across a player who sounds like he's been to RADA, but you don't really need to worry about your diction when all you've got to do is shout things like "second ball" and "big winners" for 90 minutes.

Some fans remain stuck in the middle-class closet however. I once introduced an Ipswich-supporting university friend to a friend of mine from Maidstone who followed West Ham. On the face of it they had a fair amount in common in terms of background, education and mutual interests and they appeared to get on.

The former was entirely comfortable about being 'out' as middle class and went on to work for the television station of one of the biggest clubs in the world.

"Don't your mate know a lot about football for a posh bloke?" was the verdict of the latter who went on to become a boxing writer, but only after coming to terms with the fact he'd been raised in a three-bedroomed semi in Allington and not a high-rise in Canning Town.

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